

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

1163-0399P

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

**10/089178**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

PCT/JP00/05290

August 7, 2000

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TITLE OF INVENTION

ONBOARD AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

HIBINO, Masahiro; KITANO, Toyooki; SAGA, Ikuo

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1).
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau. (WO 02/12022)
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Form PTO-1449(s), and International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) with 7 cited document(s).
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:  
PCT/IB/308  
Sixteen (16) Sheets of Formal Drawings

U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
<b>NEW 107 089178</b>		PCT/JP00/05290		1163-0399P	

21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. .... <b>\$1,040.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$890.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO. .... <b>\$740.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$710.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). .... <b>\$100.00</b> <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>	<b>CALCULATIONS      PTO USE ONLY</b>          <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">890.00</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		\$	890.00		\$	0																				
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Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +				<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">40.00</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> </table>		\$	40.00																				
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a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ **1,350.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

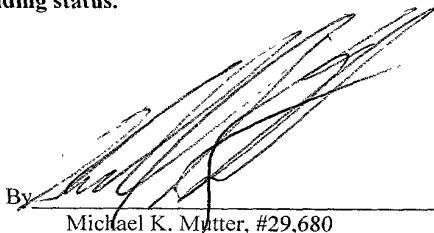
b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account. No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees.  
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

Send all correspondence to:  
**Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP** or Customer No. 2292  
**P.O. Box 747**  
**Falls Church, VA 22040-0747**  
**(703) 205-8000**

Date: March 27, 2002

By:   
 Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

PATENT  
1163-0399P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HIBINO, Masahiro et al.  
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP00/05290  
Appl. No.: New Group:  
Filed: March 27, 2002 Examiner:  
For: ONBOARD AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 27, 2002

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/05290 which has an International filing date of August 7, 2000, which designated the United States of America.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

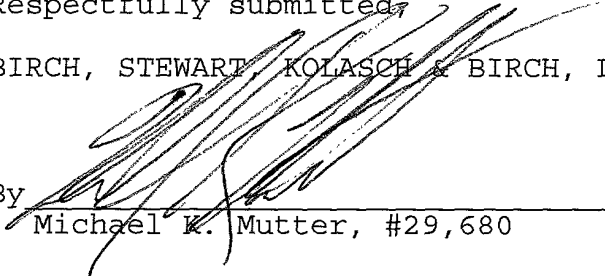
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
Michael W. Mutter, #29,680

P.O. Box 747  
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MKM/nv  
1163-0399P

(19) 世界知的所有権機関  
国際事務局



(43) 国際公開日  
2002 年 2 月 14 日 (14.02.2002)

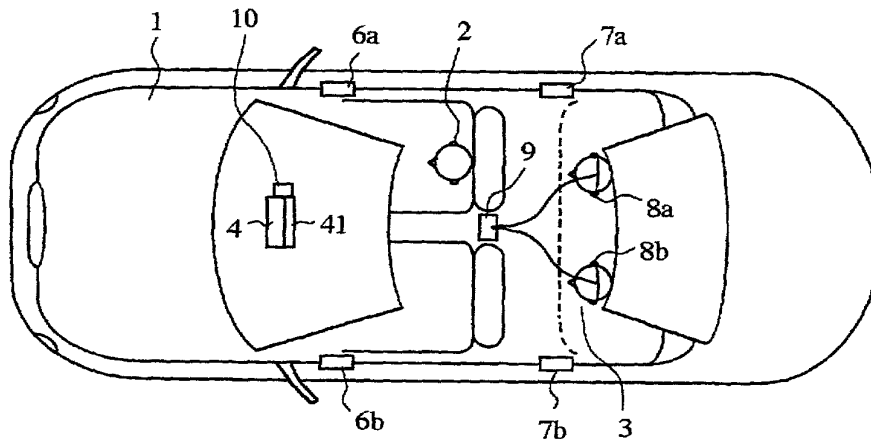
PCT

(10) 国際公開番号  
WO 02/12022 A1

- (51) 国際特許分類<sup>7</sup>: B60R 11/02 [JP/JP]. 嵯峨征雄 (SAGA, Ikuo) [JP/JP]; 〒100-8310 東京都千代田区丸の内二丁目2番3号 三菱電機株式会社内 Tokyo (JP).
- (21) 国際出願番号: PCT/JP00/05290
- (22) 国際出願日: 2000 年 8 月 7 日 (07.08.2000)
- (25) 国際出願の言語: 日本語
- (26) 国際公開の言語: 日本語
- (71) 出願人 (米国を除く全ての指定国について): 三菱電機株式会社 (MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA) [JP/JP]; 〒100-8310 東京都千代田区丸の内二丁目2番3号 Tokyo (JP).
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- (74) 代理人: 田澤博昭, 外 (TAZAWA, Hiroaki et al.); 〒100-0013 東京都千代田区霞が関三丁目7番1号 大東ビル7階 Tokyo (JP).
- (81) 指定国 (国内): CA, JP, US.
- (84) 指定国 (広域): ヨーロッパ特許 (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
- 添付公開書類:  
— 国際調査報告書
- 2 文字コード及び他の略語については、定期発行される各 PCT ガゼットの巻頭に掲載されている「コードと略語のガイダンスノート」を参照。

(54) Title: AUTOMOTIVE AUDIOVISUAL SYSTEM

(54) 発明の名称: 車載映像音響システム



(57) Abstract: A driver operates operation means to generate a control signal. In response to the control signal, the input signal to a headphone on the rear seat can be attenuated temporarily or replaced with a predetermined signal or a voice message from the driver.

[続葉有]

10/pts

SPECIFICATION  
ONBOARD AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

## Technical Field

5 This invention relates to an entertainment system for enjoying video and audio inside a motor vehicle and, more particularly, to an onboard audio visual system in which a driver (inclusive of a front-seat passenger) and rear-seat passengers selectively use various audio visual devices by  
10 their own preferences.

## Background Art

FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram showing a circuit configuration of a conventional onboard audio visual system. This apparatus  
15 is called as a rear entertainment system in which a driver and rear-seat passengers enjoy listening to audio and watching at video. This kind of system is found also in USP 5,661,811.

Referring now to FIG. 1, reference numeral 51 denotes a frequency modulation (FM)/amplitude modulation (AM) tuner, reference numeral 52 a cassette tape player, and reference numeral 53 a compact disc (CD) player or a minidisk (MD) player. Reference numerals 21, 22 denote audio selecting circuits for selecting audio signals reproduced by these audio devices 51, 52, 53. Reference numerals 6a, 6b denote front-seat speakers  
25 disposed in positions obliquely before a driver's seat and a front passenger's seat, and a reproduced audio signal of the audio switching circuit 21 is inputted thereto through a volume controller 23 and an amplifier 42. Reference numerals 7a, 7b denote rear-seat speakers, and a reproduced audio signal of  
30 the audio selecting circuit 22 is inputted thereto through an amplifier 43 and an audio signal switching circuit 20. In addition, the switched output from the audio signal switching circuit 20 is inputted to headphones 8a, 8b for two persons.

Reference numeral 5 denotes a microcomputer which outputs a control signal in response to a command signal to be outputted from a rear-seat controller 9 and a front-seat controller 41 to thereby control the switching operation of the audio selecting circuits 21, 22 and audio switching circuit 20 through lines 25, 26, 27.

The operation of the conventional onboard audio visual system will then be described.

Now, suppose that the audio selecting circuits 21, 22 and the audio switching circuit 20 are selected by driver's operation of the front seat controller 41 as shown in FIG. 1, and that the reproduced signal from the FM/AM tuner 51 is outputted. The driver controls the volume of the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b and the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b by the volume controller 23, 24. The front-seat speakers 6a, 6b are driven by the output of the amplifier 42 and the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b by the output of the amplifier 43. The driver can listen to the reproduced audio output from these speakers 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b.

Here, in case if the rear-seat passengers wish to listen to another audio of an audio device different from that (FM/AM tuner 51) selected by the driver, a command signal is sent to the microcomputer 5 by using the rear-seat controller 9 disposed nearby. Then, in response to the control signal sent from the microcomputer 5 through the signal line 26 shown by a dotted line, the audio selecting circuit 22 selects one of the audio devices 51, 52, 53 which the rear-seat passengers want. Further, in response to another control signal sent from the microcomputer 5 through the signal line 27, the audio signal switching circuit 20 switches the output from the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b to the headphones 8a, 8b in order to output thereto. Therefore, the reproduced audio signal from the selected audio device is amplified by the amplifier 43 and,

after the volume is controlled by a controller (not shown), is inputted into the headphones 8a, 8b for outputting a reproduced audio.

Under the state so far mentioned, the audio selecting circuit 21 remains unchanged as selected by the driver and is not switched thereafter. Therefore, the driver will listen only to the audio from the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b. The rear-seat passengers, on the other hand, will listen to the audio selected by themselves with the headphones 8a, 8b. In this manner, the driver and the rear-seat passengers do not suffer from interference in reproduced audio, so that the respective persons can enjoy the reproduced audio output from the respective audio devices.

In the conventional onboard audio visual apparatus thus arranged as above, while the rear-seat passengers enjoy the audio with the headphones selected by themselves, their ears are stopped by the headphones, with the result that the rear-seat passengers fail to hear the foreign sounds such as emergency alarms, or the like received while the motor vehicle is running. Particularly, in case need arose that the driver should have some communication with the rear-seat passengers, the driver faces a difficulty with their communication.

Since the audio is listened to by the headphones, similar problem as the above caused even in an onboard audio visual system in which a video signal output from such as a digital versatile disk (DVD) player is able to listen to and watch on a display disposed in the rear seat.

Further, since cables are laid out inside the motor vehicle from the audio device disposed on the front-seat to the headphones, the freedom in disposing and handling the apparatus is restricted.

Still further, since the rear-seat speakers are not driven while the rear-seat passengers are enjoying the audio with the



headphones, the incomplete sound field around the driver's is generated.

This invention has been made to solve the above and other problems and an object thereof is to provide an onboard audio visual system (a system which handles video and audio as well as that which handles only audio are hereinafter generically referred to as "an onboard audio visual system"). This facilitates the communication between the driver and the rear-seat passengers.

Further, another object of the invention is to provide an onboard audio visual system in which the number of cables laid out inside the motor vehicle is reduced, in which the more greater freedom in disposition is accomplished, and in which the use of the system by the rear-seat passengers is made much easier.

Still further, another object of the invention is to provide an onboard audio visual system in which a sound field of good quality is offered not only to the rear-seat but also to the driver.

#### Disclosure of the Invention

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting reproduced audio from the audio visual devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of the audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprises operating means for performing a predetermined operation; control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; and first signal attenuating means for attenuating an input signal to the headphone in response to the first control

signal.

Therefore, when the driver wishes to send something to the rear-seat passengers, the input signal to the headphone is attenuated by the operation of the driver himself/herself, thereby facilitating the communication with the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from the audio visual devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of the audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprises operating means for performing a predetermined operation; control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; acoustic signal generating means for generating a given calling signal; and first audio-signal switching means for temporarily switching, in response to the first control signal, from the reproduced audio signal output from the audio visual device to the calling signal, and for outputting the temporarily switched signal to the headphone.

Therefore, when the driver wishes to communicate with the rear-seat passengers, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention by inputting in advance the calling signal to the headphone of the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention further comprises second signal attenuating means for attenuating an input signal to the rear-seat speaker in response to the first control signal output from the control means.

Therefore, since the audio of the rear-seat speaker is attenuated together with that of the headphone, the rear-seat passengers are less likely to be affected by the surrounding

audio. This affords the rear-seat passengers more easy perception to the driver's calling.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from the audio visual devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of the audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprises operating means for performing a predetermined operation; control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; a hand-free automobile telephone; and first audio-signal switching means for temporarily switching, in response to the first control signal, from the reproduced audio signal output from the audio visual device to a transmission microphone signal output from the hand-free automobile telephone, and for outputting the temporarily switched signal to the headphone.

Therefore, since the driver's voice is transmitted from the transmitting microphone of the hand-free automobile telephone to the rear-seat passenger's headphone, better communication is attained between the driver and the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention in response to a busy state where the first audio-signal switching means is being switched to output the transmission microphone signal to said headphone, the first control signal of said control means is supplied to the first audio-signal switching means so as to hold the switched state over the busy state.

Therefore, the speech of the driver will not be interrupted even if the period of the original control signal has elapsed. Further, since the driver is free to leave his/her hand off

the operating means, the driving is not disturbed.

In an onboard audio visual system comprises a plurality of audio visual devices; first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signals output from the audio visual devices by a driver, and for outputting the reproduced audio signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker; video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced video signals output from the audio visual devices by rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller; second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of the reproduced audio signals output from the audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through the rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal output from the video selecting means; operating means for performing an operation by the driver; control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; first signal-attenuating means for attenuating the reproduced audio signal selected by the second audio-selecting means in response to the first control signal; audio signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving a light signal or a radio wave signal modulated by the audio signal output from the first signal-attenuating means to output a demodulated audio signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers; and video signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving the light signal or the radio wave signal modulated by the video signal output from the video selecting means to output a demodulated video signal to a display for the rear-seat passengers.

Therefore, this arrangement offers not only better communication between the driver and the rear-seat passengers but also transmits the reproduced audio signal and the reproduced video signal of the audio visual devices by

converting them into light or radio wave. Thus, the time necessary for laying out cables is saved, and there is provided a convenient system in which the rear-seat passengers are not encumbered by the cables.

5 In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention second signal-attenuating means for attenuating the reproduced audio signal, which is output from said first audio-selecting means to the rear-seat speaker, in response to the first control signal, is disposed in a supply line of the reproduced audio  
10 signal.

Therefore, at the time of communication from the driver to the rear-seat passengers; the audio of the rear-seat speaker is attenuated together with the audio of the headphone. Thus, the rear-seat passengers who are less likely to be affected  
15 by the surrounding audio and the rear-seat passengers are afforded more easy perception to the calling by the driver. In addition, since the reproduced audio signal and the reproduced video signal of the audio visual devices are transmitted by converting them into light or radio wave, this  
20 arrangement obviates not only the laying out of the cables but also provides the rear-seat passengers a convenient system.

In an onboard audio visual system comprises a plurality of audio visual devices; first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signal output from the audio  
25 visual devices by a driver, and for outputting the reproduced audio signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker; video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced video signal output from the audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller,  
30 and for outputting the arbitrarily selected video signal to a display for rear-seat passengers; second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting a reproduced audio signal output from one of the audio visual devices by the rear-seat

passengers through the rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal outputted from the video selecting means, and for outputting the arbitrarily selected audio signal or the reproduced audio  
5 signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers; guidance audio visual signal generating means for generating a given guidance audio signal and/or a guidance video signal; operating means for performing an operation by the driver; control means for outputting a first control signal based on  
10 what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; and audio signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance audio signal in place of the reproduced audio signal selected by the second audio-selecting means, and for outputting the temporarily selected guidance audio signal to  
15 the headphone in response to the first control signal, and/or the video signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance video signal in place of the reproduced video signal selected by the video selecting means, and for outputting the temporarily selected guidance video signal to the display in  
20 response to the first control signal.

Therefore, since the guidance is given by one or both of the voice in the headphone and the video on the display, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention.

In an onboard audio visual system comprises a plurality  
25 of audio visual devices; first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signals output from the audio visual devices selected by a driver, and for outputting the selected audio signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker; video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one  
30 of reproduced video signals output from the audio visual devices by rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller; second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced audio signals output from the audio visual devices

by the rear-seat passengers through the rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal output from said video selecting means; guidance audio visual signal generating means for generating a given guidance audio signal and a guidance video signal; operating means for performing a predetermined operation; control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means; first audio signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance audio signal in response to the first control signal in place of the reproduced audio signal selected by the second audio selecting means; video signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance video signal in response to the first control signal in place of the reproduced video signal selected by the video selecting means; audio signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving a light signal or a radio wave signal modulated by the audio signal output from the first audio signal switching means, and for outputting the demodulated audio signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers; and video signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving the light signal or the radio wave signal modulated by the video signal output from the video signal switching means, and for outputting the demodulated video signal to a display for the rear-seat passengers.

Therefore, since the guidance is given by appealing to both the visual and audible senses, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention but also this arrangement obviates laying out of the cables because the reproduced audio signals and the reproduced video signals are transmitted by converting them into lights or radio waves, thereby making much more easier the use of the system by the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker

and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from said audio visual devices; a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio output from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprises operating means for performing a predetermined operation; control means for outputting, through operation of the operating means, each of control signals having a first period of time  $T_1$ , a second period of time  $T_1 + T_2$ , and a third period of time  $T_2$  which appears after an elapse of the first period of time; compression-coding means for compressing and coding a reproduced audio signal output from the audio visual device selected by the rear-seat passengers; audio signal recording means for recording the compressed and coded audio signal in response to the control signal during the second period of time  $T_1 + T_2$ ; decoding means for reading the compressed and coded audio signal at a high-speed from the audio signal recording means in response to the control signal during the third period of time  $T_2$ , and for decoding the read audio signal at a high-speed; third audio signal switching means for switching the audio signal at a high-speed in response to the control signal during the third period of time  $T_2$  in place of the reproduced audio signal output from the audio visual device; and first signal-attenuating means for attenuating the output signal from the third audio signal switching means, which is sent as an input to said headphone, in response to the control signal during the first period of time  $T_1$ ; wherein the third period of time  $T_2$  is set to such a time that a content of the audio signal decoded at a high-speed substantially comes to the same as a present one of the reproduced audio signal output from the audio visual device.

Therefore, since the recorded compression signal is read out at a high-speed and is interpolated, the broadcasting audio



can be received without any dropping them and thus the rear-seat passengers do not fail to hear the contents of the broadcasting.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention the control means comprises sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of the audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from the audio visual device, which is being sent to the rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from the sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to the rear-seat speaker.

Therefore, when the driver has something to be sent to the rear-seat passengers, the input signal to the headphone is attenuated by the driver's own operation, thereby facilitating the communication with the rear-seat passengers. In addition, since the middle range components of the driving signal of the rear-seat speaker are suppressed by the sound field generating means, the influence exercised upon the rear-seat passengers is minimized at the time the rear-seat passengers use the headphone and, on the other hand, the driver can listen audio with an appropriate quality. Further, since the frequency components that may interfere with the conversation are suppressed, the reproduced audio in the rear-seat speaker exerts scarcely influence upon the rear-seat passengers even while the driver is communicating with the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention

the control means further comprises sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where  
5 the output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of the audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and fourth audio signal  
10 switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from the audio visual device, which is being sent to the rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from the sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to the rear-seat  
15 speaker.

Therefore, when the driver wishes to communicate with the rear-seat passengers, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention by inputting in advance the calling signal to the headphone of the rear-seat passengers. In addition,  
20 since the middle audio components of the driving signal of the rear-seat speaker is suppressed by the sound field generating means, the influence exercised upon the rear-seat passengers is minimized at the time the rear-seat passengers use the headphone and the driver, on the other hand, can listen audio  
25 with an appropriate quality. Further, since the frequency components that may interfere with the conversation are suppressed, the reproduced audio of the rear-seat speaker exerts hardly influence upon the rear-seat passengers even while the driver is communicating with the rear-seat  
30 passengers.

In a onboard audio visual system of the present invention the control means further comprises sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator,

for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined  
5 frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of the audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from  
10 the audio visual device, which is being sent to the rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from the audio field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to the rear-seat speaker.

Therefore, when the driver has something to be sent to  
15 the rear-seat passengers, the driver's voice is transmitted to the rear-seat passenger's headphone through the transmitting microphone of the hand-free automobile telephone. Thus, better communication between the driver and the rear-seat passengers is attained. In addition, since the middle range  
20 components of the driving signal of the rear-seat speaker are suppressed by the sound field generating means, the influence exercised upon the rear-seat passengers is minimized at the time the rear-seat passengers uses the headphone and the driver can listen audio with an appropriate quality. Still further,  
25 since the frequency components that may interfere with the conversation are suppressed, the reproduced audio of the rear-seat speaker exerts scarcely influence upon the rear-seat passengers even while the driver is communicating with the rear-seat passengers.

30 In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention the control means further comprises sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time

during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of the audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from the audio visual device, which is being sent to the rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from the sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to the rear-seat speaker.

Therefore, since the guidance can be given by the audio via the headphone and by the video on the display, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention. In addition, since the middle range components of the driving signal for the rear-seat speaker are suppressed by the sound field generating means, the influence exercised upon the rear-seat passengers is minimized at the time the rear-seat passengers uses the headphone. On the other hand, the driver can listen audio with an appropriate quality. Still further, since the frequency components that may interfere with the conversation are suppressed, the reproduced audio from the rear-seat speaker exerts hardly influence upon the rear-seat passengers while the driver is communicating with the rear-seat passengers.

In an onboard audio visual system of the present invention having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting reproduced audio from the audio visual devices; a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of the audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprises control means for outputting a second control signal over a

period of time during which the headphone is in use by detecting a state where an output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone; sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for  
5 outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to the headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said  
10 audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from the audio visual device, which is being sent to the rear-seat speaker,  
15 to an output signal from the sound field generating means so as to supply the switched audio signal to the rear-seat speaker.

Therefore, since the middle range components of the driving signal of the rear-seat speaker are suppressed by the sound field generating means, the influence exercised upon the  
20 rear-seat passengers is minimized at the time the rear-seat passengers use the headphone and the driver, on the other hand, can listen audio with an appropriate quality. In addition, since the frequency components that may influence upon the conversation are suppressed, the reproduced audio of the  
25 rear-seat speaker exerts hardly influence upon the rear-seat passengers even while the communication.

In an audio-visual device of the present invention the control means is arranged on an operating display panel of the  
audio visual device so as to make operating functional buttons  
30 of other devices serve a double purpose.

Therefore, the space for installing the operating panel as well as the cost are reduced.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram showing a circuit configuration of a conventional onboard audio visual system.

FIG. 2 is a bird's eye view illustrating a schematic arrangement inside a motor vehicle of first through fourth embodiments of the onboard audio visual system according to the invention.

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram showing a first embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a circuit diagram showing a second embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram showing a third embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing a fourth embodiment 4.

FIG. 7 is a bird's eye view illustrating fifth through seventh embodiments of the onboard audio visual system according to the invention.

FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a fifth embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a circuit diagram showing a sixth embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a circuit diagram showing a seventh embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a circuit diagram showing the onboard audio visual system and a switching circuit applied to fifth through seventh embodiments according to the invention.

FIG. 12 is an external view of an operation displaying panel having a front-seat controller positioned in front of the main component showing an eight embodiment.

FIG. 13 is a timing chart showing an operation.

FIG. 14 is a timing chart showing an operation.

FIG. 15 is a circuit diagram showing a ninth embodiment.

FIG. 16 is a timing chart showing the operation of a ninth embodiment.

FIG. 17 is a flow chart explaining an operation of a ninth embodiment.

FIG. 18 is a circuit diagram showing a tenth embodiment.

FIG. 19 is a characteristic diagram depicting an operation

of a tenth embodiment.

### Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Hereinafter, the best mode for carrying out the invention  
 5 will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

### First Embodiment

FIG. 2 is a bird's eye view illustrating a schematic  
 10 arrangement inside a motor vehicle of first through fourth embodiments of the onboard audio visual system according to the invention.

Referring to FIG. 2, reference numeral 1 denotes the main body of a motor vehicle, reference numeral 2 a driver, and  
 15 reference numeral 3 rear-seat passengers. Reference numeral 4 denotes the main component of an onboard (vehicle-mounted) audio visual system, which incorporates therein a plurality of appropriate number of audio visual devices such as an FM/AM tuner, a cassette tape recorder, an MD player, a solid player,  
 20 a DVD player, a television (TV) tuner, or the like, as well as a selecting circuits to select out of the above for reproducing them, other necessary functional circuits, or the like. Reference numerals 6a, 6b denote a pair of left and right front-seat speakers disposed on the front seat side inside the  
 25 motor vehicle. Reference numerals 7a, 7b denote rear-seat speakers disposed on the rear seat side. Reference numerals 8a, 8b denote headphones for use by the rear-seat passengers. Reference numeral 9 denotes a rear-seat controller for the rear-seat passengers to independently operate the audio visual  
 30 devices. Reference numeral 41 denotes a front-seat controller for performing an operation by the driver or a front-seat passenger, or a front operation panel for the main component 4. Reference numeral 10 denotes an operating means disposed

near the driver 2 as one of the components of this invention.

In this kind of onboard audio visual system, the driver 2 utilizes the audio visual system by operating the front-seat controller 41. For example, the driver listens to the FM/AM tuner or the DVD audio. On the other hand, the rear-seat passengers 3 are able to listen, if necessary, to the reproduced audio output from a sound source different from that (FM radio) which the driver 2 is now listening to, by using the rear-seat controller 9. At this time, however, the rear-seat passengers 3 are given a mere opportunity to listen to the audio visual device selected by themselves only with the headphones 8a, 8b.

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram showing a first embodiment. In FIG. 3, the same components as those in FIGS. 1 and 2 are denoted by the same reference numerals.

Referring to FIG. 3 reference numeral 40 denotes an audio visual apparatus representing the various audio visual devices and their selecting circuits mounted inside the main component 4, and yet it serves as a signal source from which reproduced audio signals to be sent to the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b, to the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b, and to the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b are selectively outputted. The microcomputer 5 as a control means generates control signals to control the audio visual apparatus 40 or to operate a signal attenuator 12 by receiving a command signal from the controllers 9, 41 and the operating means 10. The signal attenuator 12 as a first signal attenuating means attenuates, by the operation below, the reproduced audio signal to be inputted into the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b. The amplifier 42 drives the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b, the amplifier 43 the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b, and an amplifier 44 the headphones 8a, 8b by respectively supplying reproduced audio signals.

The operation of the circuit in FIG. 3 will then be



described.

When the microcomputer 5 receives a command signal by the operation of the front-seat controller 41, an audio selecting signal is sent to the block 40 through a signal line 250 shown in a dotted line. Then, a reproduced audio signal selected from the audio visual devices mounted inside the audio visual apparatus 40 is outputted to the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b and the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b. When the rear-seat controller 9 is operated, an audio selecting signal is sent from the microcomputer 5 to the audio visual apparatus 40 through a signal line 260, so that the reproduced signal to be outputted to the headphones 8a, 8b is selected. In this case, the reproduced audio from the audio visual device to be selected by the rear-seat controller 9 is outputted independent of the ones to be sent to the speakers 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b. For example, when the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b and the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b are operated by the received audio signal sent from a radio broadcasting station, the headphones 8a, 8b can also be operated at the same time by the reproduced audio signal from the cassette tape. In addition, the microcomputer 5 outputs a control signal of a temporary length to the signal attenuator (a first signal attenuating means) 12 through a signal line 502.

In case of necessity, under an emergency or some other circumstances, for the driver to communicate with the rear-seat passengers 3 who are listening to the headphones, the driver operates the operating means 10 mounted in the neighborhood of the driver. Then, the microcomputer 5 recognizes that the operating means 5 is operated and outputs, as a control signal, an attenuation factor setting signal which commands the signal attenuator 12 to execute an attenuation of 10dB or more as compared with that at an ordinary time. As a result, the reproduced volume of the headphones 8a, 8b abruptly toned down.

Consequently, the rear-seat passengers 3 notice the abrupt lowering of the volume and provokes the driver's attention or puts off the headphones 8a, 8b from their ears to have communication with the driver 2. The attenuation  
 5 factor of the signal attenuator 12 may only have a level which is enough to notify others that the volume abruptly toned down. Alternatively, of course the volume may be lowered to zero.

#### Second Embodiment

10 FIG. 4 is a circuit diagram showing a second embodiment. The circuit in FIG. 4 differs from that in FIG. 3 in that an audio signal switching circuit (first audio signal switching means) 13 is provided instead of the signal attenuator 12, and in that an acoustic signal generating apparatus 11 is further  
 15 added.

The acoustic signal generating apparatus (an acoustic signal generating means) 11 is an apparatus for generating a calling signal to attract person's attention. As a calling sound, a buzzer sound, melody signal sound, a guidance sound  
 20 generated by synthesized sound ("put off the headphone" for example), or the like is used. When the audio signal switching circuit 13 receives a temporary control signal from the microcomputer 5 through a signal line 503, it is switched from the side "a" of the reproduced signal of the audio visual device  
 25 mounted inside the block 40 to the side "b" of the calling signal. Therefore, during this period, the calling sound is outputted from the headphones 8a, 8b.

Therefore, when the driver 2 is driven by necessity under which he/she must have communication with the rear-seat  
 30 passengers 3, the reproduced audio from the audio visual device is shut off by operating the operating means 10 and, instead, the calling sound is sent to the rear-seat passengers 3. Thus, the driver can make know more clearly his/her own intention

to hold a conversation with the rear-seat passengers.

### Third Embodiment

FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram showing a third embodiment.

5 In this third embodiment a signal attenuator (a second signal attenuating means) 14 for attenuating the audio signal to be applied to the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b is further added in FIG. 3. Like the signal attenuating device 12, the attenuation factor setting signal is temporarily supplied, as a control  
10 signal, to the signal attenuating device 14 from the microcomputer 5 through the signal line as shown by the dotted line 502.

Therefore, the driver 2, if necessary, can attenuate not only the audio signal sent to drive the headphones 8a, 8b but  
15 also that sent to the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b. Thus, by lowering the reproduced volume of the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b, the rear-seat passengers 3 are able to recognize the abrupt lowering of the volume of the headphones 8a, 8b without being influenced on the audible senses.

### Fourth Embodiment

FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram showing a fourth embodiment.

There is shown in the fourth embodiment a case where a hand-free automotive telephone which enables the driver relatively easy  
25 use of a transmitting microphone is mounted in the motor vehicle. In FIG. 6, what is different from FIG. 4 is in that, in place of the acoustic signal generating apparatus 11, the hand-free automotive telephone 18 having a transmitting microphone 17 is added.

30 Referring to FIG. 6, when the driver 2 tries to communicate with the rear-seat passengers 3 who are putting on the headphones 8a, 8b, the driver operates the operating means 10. Then, a control signal is sent from the microcomputer 5 to the

audio signal switching circuit 13 through a line 503, thereby switching the audio signal switching circuit 13 from the output side "a" of the audio visual device to the transmitting side "c" of the transmitting microphone 17. As a result, although  
 5 the reproduced audio output from the audio visual device is shut off, the voice of the driver 2 is reproduced, instead, in the headphones 8a, 8b for transmitting to the rear-seat passengers 3.

Here, the control signal from the microcomputer 5 controls  
 10 the audio signal switching circuit 13 so as to leave the second signal switching circuit 13 switched to the transmitting side "c" for the period of time necessary for the operation of the operating means 10. However, the busy state may sometimes be prolonged and, therefore, once the hand is inadvertently left  
 15 off the operating means 10, the control period will be finished on the way of communication. In order to avoid such a shortcoming, an output indicative of the busy state of the line is sent from the hand-free automobile telephone 18 to the microcomputer 5. The control signal is continuously sent so  
 20 that the switched state of the switching circuit 13 can be held for the whole period of the busy state.

#### Fifth Embodiment

FIG. 7 is a bird's eye view illustrating fifth through  
 25 seventh embodiments of the onboard audio visual system according to the invention. FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a fifth embodiment. In FIG. 7 a schematic arrangement inside a motor vehicle is shown, and in FIG. 11 the onboard audio visual system and a switching circuit therefor mounted inside the audio  
 30 visual apparatus 40 is shown.

Here, the onboard audio visual systems according to fifth though seventh embodiments are embodiments for providing means for solving the problem arisen in utilizing the audio signal

and the video signal by transmitting them to the rear seats, as well as that concerning the restriction on the laying out of cables between the front seats and the rear seats and facilitation of the system by the rear-seat passengers.

5 In FIG. 7, what is different from the above FIG. 2 is in that there are provided an audio signal transmitter 57 and a video signal transmitter 59 disposed on the front seat side close to, or integral with, the main component 4; and audio signal receivers 58a, 58b mounted on the headphones 8a, 8b on  
10 the rear seat side, and a video signal receiver 60 disposed adjacent to, or integral with, a rear-seat controller 62. The rear-seat controller 62 is a controller for performing infrared-ray transmission and reception of command signals to and from a light-receiving unit 63 (FIG. 8) assembled into the  
15 front-seat controller 41. The main component 4 incorporates therein audio visual devices as shown in FIG. 11 such as an FM/AM tuner 51, a cassette tape player 52, an MD player 53, a solid state player 54, a DVD player 55, a TV tuner 56, or the like; audio selecting circuits 47, 48; a video selecting  
20 circuit 49; and other necessary circuits.

In FIGS. 8 and 11, the audio selecting circuit (the first audio selecting means) 47 is a circuit for selecting the sound source of a medium which the driver 2 wishes. It is controlled by the audio selecting signal to be sent through the signal  
25 line 250 of the microcomputer 5, and its output is sent to the drive amplifiers 42, 43 for the front-seat speakers 6a, 6b and the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b, respectively. The audio selecting circuit (the second audio selecting means) 48 is a circuit for selecting the sound source of a medium required  
30 by the rear-seat passengers 3. It is controlled by the audio selecting signal through the signal line 260 of the microcomputer 5. Its output is sent to the audio signal transmitter 57 through the signal attenuator 12. The inputted

audio signal is propagated through space in the form of light or a radio wave via the audio signal transmitter 57. This propagated signal received by the audio signal receiver 58 is demodulated into an electric signal, and is sent to the headphones 8a, 8b through the amplifier 44 to drive the headphones. Here, the audio signal receiver 58 and the amplifier 44 are integrated with the headphones 8a, 8b. The audio signal transmitter 57 and the audio signal receiver 58 constitute an audio signal transmitting-receiving means.

The video selecting circuit (the video selecting means) 49 is a circuit for selecting one required by the rear-seat passengers 3 from the video media such as the DVD player 55, the TV tuner 56, or the like. It is controlled by the video selecting signal sent through a signal line 270 of the microcomputer 5. Naturally, the audio selecting circuit 48 selects the audio signal in synchronization with the reproduced video signal attended on the reproduced video signal by the video selecting circuit 49. The selected reproduced video signal selected is sent to the video signal transmitter 59. After the signal is transmitted through space in the form of the light or the radio wave in the same way as the audio signal, it is received by the video signal receiver 60 and is demodulated into an electric signal for video reproduction by a display 61. The video signal receiver 60 is integrated with the display 61. The video signal transmitter 59 and the video signal receiver 60 constitute a video signal transmitting-receiving means.

The rear-seat controller 62 is a wireless type which transmits the command signal for the rear-seat controller 9, as described in the first embodiment, after converting it to the infrared ray signal. The infrared ray signal transmitted from this rear-seat controller 62 is received by the light-receiving unit 63 disposed in the front-seat controller

41, and is demodulated into an electric signal for transmitting it to the microcomputer 5.

Suppose that the driver 2 has faced a necessity for communication with the rear-seat passengers 3 while they are listening to, and watching at, the reproduced DVD video by means of the display 61 and the headphones 8a, 8b. When the driver 2 operates the operating means 10, the reproduced audio signal attended on the video is temporarily attenuated by the signal attenuator 12 which responds to the control signal of the microcomputer 5. The signal having the attenuated component is converted by the audio signal transmitter 57 to the space-propagating signal carried by the light or the radio wave. Thus transmitted signal in this manner is in turn received by the audio signal receiver 58 disposed in the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b and is demodulated into an audio signal. Thus demodulated audio signal is applied to the headphones 8a, 8b through the amplifier 44 to drive the headphones.

As a consequence, the rear-seat passengers 3 recognize that the volume of the headphones 8a, 8b abruptly toned down and provokes the driver's attention, thereby facilitating communication between them.

Therefore, there is no need of laying out cables between the main component 4 in the front seat and the devices used in the rear seat. Thus, this alleviates the conditions for disposing the display 61. In addition, the rear-seat passengers 3 put on the headphones 8a, 8b are free to move their bodies while listening to audio without being obstructed by the cables. As a result, the use of the headphones is made much easier because they can take a relaxed posture.

Further, by adopting the rear-seat controller 9 in a wireless, the controller 9 will not become an obstruction and rather is convenient in using it even if it is left beside the rear-seat passengers, as a prompt action can be taken in the

course of operation of the system.

#### Sixth Embodiment

FIG. 9 is a circuit diagram showing a sixth embodiment.

5 In this sixth embodiment, a signal attenuator 14 is newly added for attenuating the audio signal for the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b in FIG. 8.

10 In FIG. 9, depending on what sort of operation is performed by the operating means 10, the reproduced signal sent to the headphones 8a, 8b is attenuated by the signal attenuator 12, as well as the reproduced audio signal sent to the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b is also temporarily attenuated by the signal attenuator 14.

15 Therefore, although the reproduced volume of the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b to which the driver 2 is listening to becomes lower, the rear-seat passengers 3 make sure to recognize lowering in the volume of the headphones 8a, 8b. In addition, by adopting the system in a wireless, further improvement in convenience is expected.

#### Seventh Embodiment

FIG. 10 is a circuit diagram showing a seventh embodiment.

20 In this tenth embodiment, an audio signal switching circuit 13 is added in place of the signal attenuator 12, and a video signal switching circuit (a video signal switching means) 15 and a guidance audio visual signal generating apparatus (a guidance audio visual signal generating means) 16 are further added in FIG. 8.

30 The guidance audio visual signal generating apparatus 16 is an apparatus for generating a guidance video representative of a text, a pictorial representation, or the like to provoke person's attention, aside from a guidance signal sound to excite person's attention such as a signal sound by means of a buzzer



sound, a melody signal sound, a synthesized sound (for example, "please put off your headphone"), or the like.

In FIG. 10, when a control signal output from the microcomputer 5 is received, the audio signal switching circuit 13 is switched from the audio reproducing signal side "a" of the block 40 to the guidance sound signal side "b" of the guidance audio visual signal generating apparatus 16 over the whole period of time of the control signal. At the same time, the video signal switching circuit 15 is switched from the reproduced video signal side "p" of the block 40 to the guidance video signal side "q."

By taking such a configuration, the rear-seat passengers 3 who are listening to the headphones 8a, 8b receive the message from the driver 2 by both in audio and video, so that a secure communication can be had. In addition, it is needless to say that the use of the system by the rear-seat passengers 3 is made much easier owing to the wireless system.

As a modified example of this embodiment, a circuit configuration may be adopted, in which either the guidance video or the guidance sound is switched. In such a configuration, however, the audio visual signal generating apparatus 16 may be arranged to generate only the guidance sound signal and the guidance video signal.

#### Eight Embodiment

FIG. 12 is an external view of an operation displaying panel showing an eight embodiment. The operating panel is provided with a front-seat controller 41 positioned in the front side of the main component 4, on which inserting openings for inserting a DVD, a CD, an MD, a cassette tape, a memory card, or the like; an operating state indicator; various operating buttons, or the like are provided. Here, there is a button caved as "traffic information" for example. This button is operated

by the driver 2 who is listening to the radio when the driver wishes to receive the broadcasting signal for the traffic information, and this button is well known. In this embodiment, this kind of existing operating button 10 is used for making the operating means 10 for communicating with the rear-seat passengers 3 who are listening to the headphones 8a, 8b serve a double purpose. There are some buttons in which a measure has been taken in the circuit to prevent the communication in a state where the headphones 8a, 8b are not in use.

By taking such an arrangement, the limited area of the main component 4 can be effectively utilized with a reduced cost.

In the first through third embodiments and fifth through seventh embodiments, the timing of bringing on a change in the input signal to the headphones 8a, 8b at the time attempting the communication, i.e., the time of control signal of the microcomputer 5 is generated by specific methods as described below.

One of them is shown in a timing chart in FIG. 13. Referring to the timing chart period ① during which the button of the operating means 16 is depressed, i.e., a signal having a time coinciding with that during which the button switch is held active, thereby bringing on a change ② in the input signal to the headphones 8a, 8b. Although no reference has been made so far, the operation ③ of the audio visual device reproducing the package medium such as the CD, the DVD, or the like mounted inside the main component 4 may also be suspended. Then, at the timing on which the finger is left away from the button, the input signal to the headphones 8a, 8b returns to the original state. At this time, the operation ③ of the audio visual device will be released from the suspended state and resumed.

Another method is shown in the timing chart in FIG. 14. A timer generates a predetermined time starting from the time

where the operating switch is depressed ①, and a control signal having a predetermined period of time is generated, thereby bringing on a change ② in the input signal to the headphones 8a, 8b. At the same time, the operation ③ of the audio visual  
 5 device under reproduction is suspended. After an elapse of the predetermined time, the headphone returns to the original state where the reproduced audio signal is enjoyable.

Here, as the audio visual devices to be suspended, there may be included not only the device selected by the rear-seat  
 10 passengers but also another one which the driver concurrently selected and listened. If the audio visual device under reproducing operation is suspended when a signal indicative of a start of the reproduction is outputted, it is possible, at the time of resuming, to start the reproduction from the  
 15 suspended point. This prevents information from being lost and offers the listener comfortable music environment.

As for the broadcasting devices such as a radio and a TV set, when their operations are once suspended, the contents of the suspended broadcasting are lost and can no longer be  
 20 listened to. Therefore, in the following embodiments an audio visual system is provided to solve the above problem.

#### Ninth Embodiment

FIG. 15 is a circuit diagram showing a ninth embodiment.  
 25 In FIG. 15, the microcomputer 5, the operating means 10 and the signal attenuator 12 are the same as those used in the above embodiments. Reference numeral 51 denotes the FM/AM tuner for audio broadcasting incorporated in the above main component 4. The audio signal output is subject to analog-digital  
 30 conversion by an analog/digital (AD) converter 71 and is further to compression and coding by a compression-coding circuit 72 for recording in an audio memory (an audio signal recording means) 73. Here, the AD converter 71 and the compression-

coding circuit 72 constitute a compression-coding means.

Reference numeral 74 denotes a high-speed reading circuit for reading the recorded signal from the audio memory 73. After the read signal is decoded into a digital signal by a decoding circuit 75, it is outputted by a DA converter 76 as an audio signal decoded at a high-speed which is substantially identical with the original one. The high-speed reading circuit 74, the decoding circuit 75, and the DA converter 76 constitute a decoding means. Reference numeral 80 denotes an audio signal switching circuit (a third audio signal switching means) for switching the audio signal output from the FM/AM tuner 51 and the reproduced audio signal of the DA converter 76, and for outputting it to the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b.

The operation of this circuit configuration will now be described with reference to both the timing chart in FIG. 16 and the flow chart in FIG. 17.

At step ST1, the driver operates the operating button of the operating means 10.

At step ST2, at a timing on which the operating button ① is depressed, an attenuation command signal is sent from the microcomputer 5 to the signal attenuator 12 through the signal line 502, for attenuation of the audio signal output from the FM/AM tuner 51, i.e., the input signal to the headphone ② begins attenuating. At the same time, a recording command signal is sent to the audio memory 73 through a signal line 504, for beginning recording of the compressed and coded signal of the audio signal output from the FM/AM tuner 51 ③ starting from a start address. In this state, the audio signal switching circuit 80 is switched to the side of "x" in which the audio signal output from the FM/AM tuner 51 is selected ⑤.

At step ST3, after an elapse of a predetermined time T1 from the time on which the operating button is switched on, the sending of the attenuation command signal that is being

sent from the microcomputer 5 to the signal attenuator 12 is stopped.

At step ST4, the signal attenuator 12 then stops the attenuating operation and the level of the input signal to the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b returns to the original one. In addition, upon the audio signal switching circuit 80 is switched to the "y" side, the reading ④, from the start address of the audio memory 73, of the compressed broadcasting audio signal is started by accessing at a high-speed.

At step ST5, the decoded high-speed audio signal read out at a high-speed from the audio memory 73 comes to the same broadcasting contents ④, ⑤ as that output from the FM/AM tuner 51, and thus the catch-up time T2 elapses.

At step ST6, the microcomputer 5 outputs a record-stopping signal to the audio memory 73 and also commands the audio signal switching circuit 80 to select the receiving signal of the FM/AM tuner 51. As a result, the input signal to the rear-seat headphones 8a, 8b is directly outputted to the FM/AM tuner 51.

Here, the catch-up time T2 can be calculated by the following formula

$$T2 = T1/(\beta - 1)$$

where  $\beta$  is a compression coding factor.

As the compression coding means available here, there can be an audio compression technology such as an adaptive differential pulse code modulation (ADPCM), partial audio-correlation (PARCOR), or the like. It is appropriate to select the compression factor of about 1.1 to 1.5 while taking into consideration the sound quality level of the decoded audio. Generally, it has a tendency that the higher the compression factor, the more inferior the sound quality, but the saving of the memory capacity and the shortening of the catch-up time T2 are attained.

As can be seen from the above description of the operation,

according to this embodiment, it is possible to listen to the broadcasting contents that could not be received during the time when the driver exchanged communication with the rear-seat passengers and, by reading at a high-speed though at some sacrifice of the sound quality, after an elapse of the time T2, the original sound can be listened successively.

#### Tenth Embodiment

FIG. 18 Is a circuit diagram showing a tenth embodiment. This embodiment is intended to solve the problem that the audio output from the rear speakers to which the driver is listening does not affect as noises the headphones for the rear-seat passengers.

In FIG. 18, what is different from the above circuit configuration shown in FIG. 3 is in that a sound field generating means including an adaptive filter 20 and a signal attenuator 14; as well as an audio signal switching circuit (a fourth audio signal switching means) 19 is added to the input signal line of the amplifier 43 to drive the rear-seat speakers 8a, 8b. In addition, while the headphones 8a, 8b are in use, a detecting signal indicating that the headphones are being used is sent from the audio visual apparatus 40 to the microcomputer 5 through a line 280, and a control signal is sent from the microcomputer 5 to the audio signal switching circuit 19 through a line 504 over the period during which the headphones is in use.

In view of the vehicle compartment in which the audio visual system is mounted, as well as of the positional relationship of the driver's seat relative to the space in the vehicle compartment, an audio is created so as to accomplish sound field reproducing characteristics that are most appropriate to the driver. The adaptive filter 20 is a conventional one which is designed to have filter

characteristics varying depending on the sound field reproduction characteristics. For example, in a case where low-pitched sound output from the speakers 8a, 8b to be listened in the driver's seat is toned up, the adaptive filter 20 acts  
 5 as a low pass filter having high-frequency attenuation characteristics as shown in FIG. 19A. In a case where surround-oriented reproduction is intended, the adaptive filter 20 acts as a high pass filter as shown in FIG. 19B. The cascade connection of the adaptive filter 20 and the signal  
 10 attenuator 14 constitutes a sound field generating means.

In case the rear-seat passengers listen to the reproduced audio output from the selected audio visual device by putting on the headphones 8a, 8b(not shown), the reproduced audio signal sent to the headphones 8a, 8b is detected, and the detected  
 15 signal indicating that the headphones is in use is outputted from the audio visual apparatus 40 and sent to the microcomputer 5 through a line 280. The control signal produced over the period during which the headphones is in use is sent from the microcomputer 5 to the audio signal switching circuit 19 through  
 20 the line 504. In response to this control signal, the audio signal switching circuit 19 is switched to the side "e" of the sound field generating means including the adaptive filter 20 and the signal attenuator 14. Therefore, during this period, a reproduced audio signal of special signal characteristics  
 25 is sent to the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b in place of the reproduced audio signal directly output from the audio visual device.

While the rear-seat passengers who are listening to the middle sound ranging from 200 Hz to 800 Hz of the largest volume  
 30 with the headphones 8a, 8b becomes lower in the reproduced audio level output from the rear-seat speaker 7a, 7b and, therefore, the reproduced audio will not influence on the rear-seat passengers who are listening with the headphones. On the other

hand, the driver is able to hear out the sound components that are the main role of the rear-seat speakers 7a, 7b.

Therefore, while the driver is communicating with the rear-seat passengers by shutting out the input signal to the headphones 8a, 8b by the signal attenuator 12, the frequency components interfering with the communication are suppressed. The reproduced audio output from the rear-seat speaker 7a, 7b will thus not affect the rear-seat passengers. In addition, the arrangement of this embodiment may be substituted by combining the above first, fourth, fifth, and seventh embodiments, respectively. In this event, similar effect is exerted.

#### Industrial Applicability

As described above, the onboard audio visual system according to this invention copes with the increase in the various media devices to be used inside the motor vehicle, as well as with the versatility in their uses. Particularly, this invention provides sufficient adaptability and actuality to solve the problems of the communication confronted when the driver and the rear-seat passengers enjoy different media at the same time, and practical use of the system is fully expected.



## CLAIMS

1. An onboard audio visual system having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting reproduced audio from said audio visual  
5 devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprising:

operating means for performing a predetermined operation;

10 control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means; and

first signal attenuating means for attenuating an input signal to said headphone in response to said first control  
15 signal.

2. An onboard audio visual system having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from said audio visual  
20 devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprising:

operating means for performing a predetermined operation;

25 control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means;

acoustic signal generating means for generating a given calling signal; and

first audio-signal switching means for temporarily  
30 switching, in response to the first control signal, from the reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual device to the calling signal, and for outputting the temporarily switched signal to said headphone.

3. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 1, further comprising second signal attenuating means for attenuating an input signal to the rear-seat speaker in response to the first control signal output from said control means.

4. An onboard audio visual system having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from said audio visual devices; and a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprising:

operating means for performing a predetermined operation;

control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means; a hand-free automobile telephone; and

first audio-signal switching means for temporarily switching, in response to the first control signal, from the reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual device to a transmission microphone signal output from said hand-free automobile telephone, and for outputting the temporarily switched signal to said headphone.

5. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 4, wherein, in response to a busy state where said first audio-signal switching means is being switched to output said transmission microphone signal to said headphone, the first control signal of said control means is supplied to said first audio-signal switching means so as to hold the switched state over the busy state.

6. An onboard audio visual system comprising:

a plurality of audio visual devices;

first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signals output from said audio visual devices by a driver, and for outputting the reproduced audio signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker;

video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced video signals output from said audio visual devices by rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller;

second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of the reproduced audio signals output from said audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through said rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal output from said video selecting means;

operating means for performing an operation by the driver;

control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means;

first signal-attenuating means for attenuating the reproduced audio signal selected by said second audio-selecting means in response to the first control signal;

audio signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving a light signal or a radio wave signal modulated by the audio signal output from said first signal-attenuating means to output a demodulated audio signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers; and

video signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving the light signal or the radio wave signal modulated by the video signal output from said video selecting means to output a demodulated video signal to a display for the rear-seat passengers.

7. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 6, wherein second signal-attenuating means for attenuating the

reproduced audio signal, which is output from said first audio-selecting means to the rear-seat speaker, in response to the first control signal, is disposed in a supply line of the reproduced audio signal.

5

8. An onboard audio visual system comprising:

a plurality of audio visual devices;

first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual devices by a driver, and for outputting the reproduced audio signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker;

video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced video signal output from said audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, and for outputting the arbitrarily selected video signal to a display for rear-seat passengers;

second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting a reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through the rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal outputted from said video selecting means, and for outputting the arbitrarily selected audio signal or the reproduced audio signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers;

guidance audio visual signal generating means for generating a given guidance audio signal and/or a guidance video signal;

operating means for performing an operation by the driver;

control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means; and

audio signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance audio signal in place of the reproduced audio

signal selected by said second audio-selecting means, and for outputting the temporarily selected guidance audio signal to said headphone in response to the first control signal, and/or said video signal switching means for temporarily selecting  
 5 the guidance video signal in place of the reproduced video signal selected by said video selecting means, and for outputting the temporarily selected guidance video signal to said display in response to the first control signal.

10 9. An onboard audio visual system comprising:  
 a plurality of audio visual devices;

first audio-selecting means for selecting one of reproduced audio signals output from said audio visual devices selected by a driver, and for outputting the selected audio  
 15 signal to a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker;

video selecting means for arbitrarily selecting one of reproduced video signals output from said audio visual devices by rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller;

second audio-selecting means for arbitrarily selecting  
 20 one of reproduced audio signals output from said audio visual devices by the rear-seat passengers through said rear-seat controller, or a reproduced audio signal attended on the reproduced video signal output from said video selecting means;

guidance audio visual signal generating means for  
 25 generating a given guidance audio signal and a guidance video signal;

operating means for performing a predetermined operation;

control means for outputting a first control signal based on what sort of operation is performed by said operating means;

30 first audio signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance audio signal in response to the first control signal in place of the reproduced audio signal selected by said second audio selecting means;

video signal switching means for temporarily selecting the guidance video signal in response to the first control signal in place of the reproduced video signal selected by said video selecting means;

5 audio signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving a light signal or a radio wave signal modulated by the audio signal output from said first audio signal switching means, and for outputting the demodulated audio signal to a headphone for the rear-seat passengers; and

10 video signal transmitting-receiving means for transmitting and receiving the light signal or the radio wave signal modulated by the video signal output from said video signal switching means, and for outputting the demodulated video signal to a display for the rear-seat passengers.

15 10. An onboard audio visual system having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting a reproduced audio from said audio visual devices; a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio output from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprising:

operating means for performing a predetermined operation; 25 control means for outputting, through operation of said operating means, each of control signals having a first period of time  $T_1$ , a second period of time  $T_1 + T_2$ , and a third period of time  $T_2$  which appears after an elapse of the first period of time;

30 compression-coding means for compressing and coding a reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual device selected by the rear-seat passengers;

audio signal recording means for recording the compressed

and coded audio signal in response to the control signal during the second period of time  $T1 + T2$ ;

decoding means for reading the compressed and coded audio signal at a high-speed from said audio signal recording means  
 5 in response to the control signal during the third period of time  $T2$ , and for decoding the read audio signal at a high-speed;

third audio signal switching means for switching the audio signal at a high-speed in response to the control signal  
 10 during the third period of time  $T2$  in place of the reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual device; and

first signal-attenuating means for attenuating the output signal from the third audio signal switching means, which is sent as an input to said headphone, in response to the control  
 15 signal during the first period of time  $T1$ ;

wherein the third period of time  $T2$  is set to such a time that a content of the audio signal decoded at a high-speed substantially comes to the same as a present one of the reproduced audio signal output from said audio visual device.  
 20

11. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 1, wherein said control means comprising:

sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control  
 25 signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to said headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices so  
 30 as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and

fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio

signal directly output from said audio visual device, which is being sent to said rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from said sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to said rear-seat speaker.

5

12. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 2, wherein said control means further comprising:

sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to said headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and

10

15

fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from said audio visual device, which is being sent to said rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from said sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to said rear-seat speaker.

20

13. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 4, wherein said control means further comprising:

25

sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to said headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker;

30



and

fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from said audio visual device, which is being sent to said rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from said audio field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to said rear-seat speaker.

14. The onboard audio visual system according to claim 8, wherein said control means further comprising:

sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to said headphone, and for bringing on a change in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and

fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio signal directly output from said audio visual device, which is being sent to said rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from said sound field generating means so as to supply the switched signal to said rear-seat speaker.

15. An onboard audio visual system having a plurality of audio visual devices; a front-seat speaker and a rear-seat speaker for outputting reproduced audio from said audio visual devices; a headphone for rear-seat passengers for independently outputting a reproduced audio from one of said audio visual devices arbitrarily selected by the rear-seat passengers through a rear-seat controller, comprising:

control means for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which said headphone is in use by detecting a state where an output signal from said audio visual device is input to said headphone;

5        sound field generating means, including an adaptive filter and a signal attenuator, for outputting a second control signal over a period of time during which a headphone is in use by detecting a state where the output signal from the audio visual device is input to said headphone, and for bringing on a change  
10 in a predetermined frequency spectrum of the reproduced audio signal output from one of said audio visual devices so as to supply the changed audio signal to the rear-seat speaker; and

fourth audio signal switching means for switching, in response to the second control signal, from the reproduced audio  
15 signal directly output from said audio visual device, which is being sent to said rear-seat speaker, to an output signal from said sound field generating means so as to supply the switched audio signal to said rear-seat speaker.

20        16. The audio-visual device according to claim 1, wherein said control means is arranged on an operating display panel of said audio visual device so as to make operating functional buttons of other devices serve a double purpose.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control signal is generated by an operating means for being operated by a driver. In response to this control signal, an input signal to rear-seat headphones is temporarily  
5 attenuated or is replaced by another given signal or a transmission signal from the driver.

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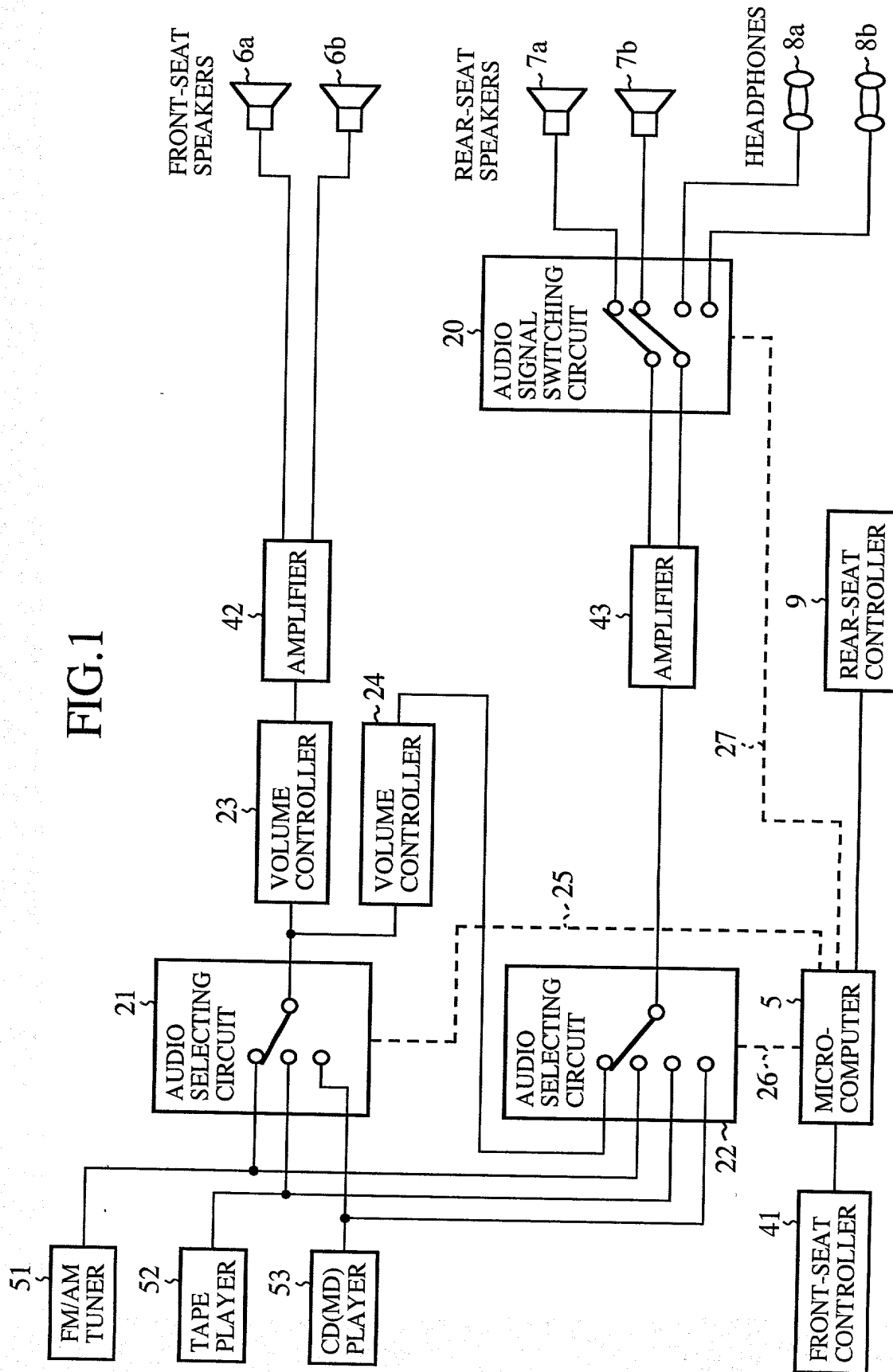


FIG.2

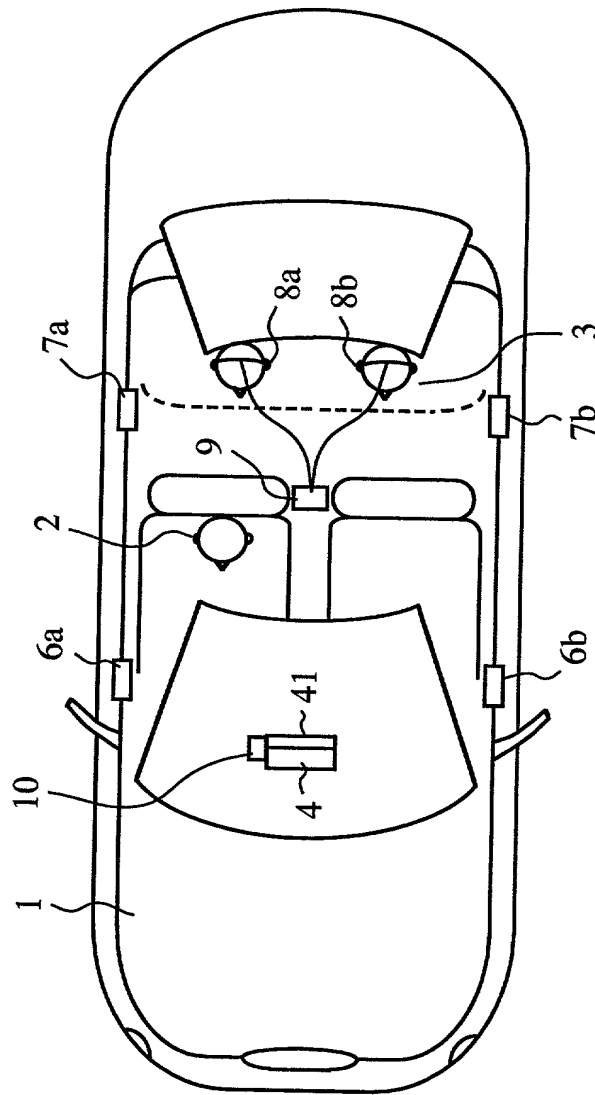


FIG.3

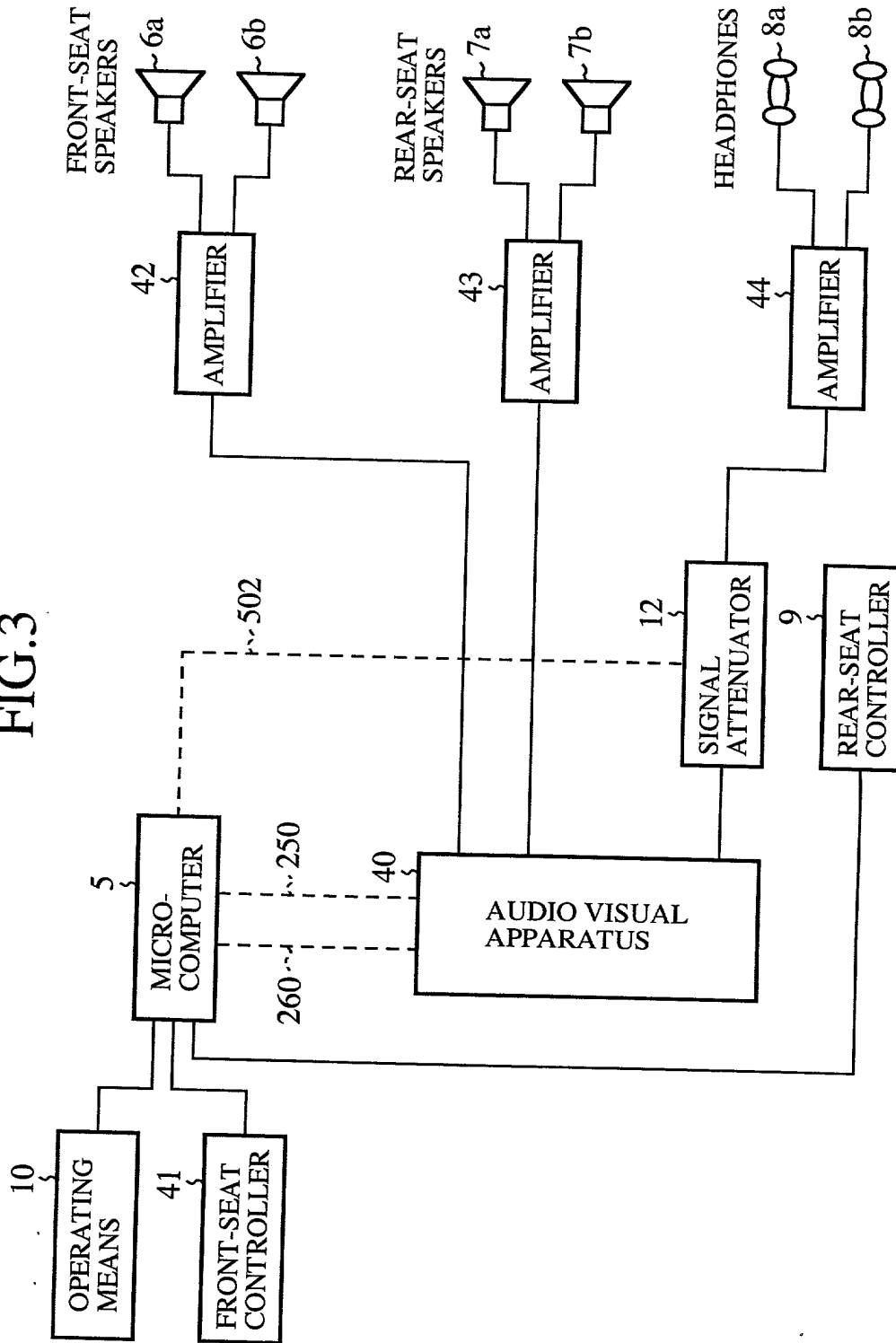
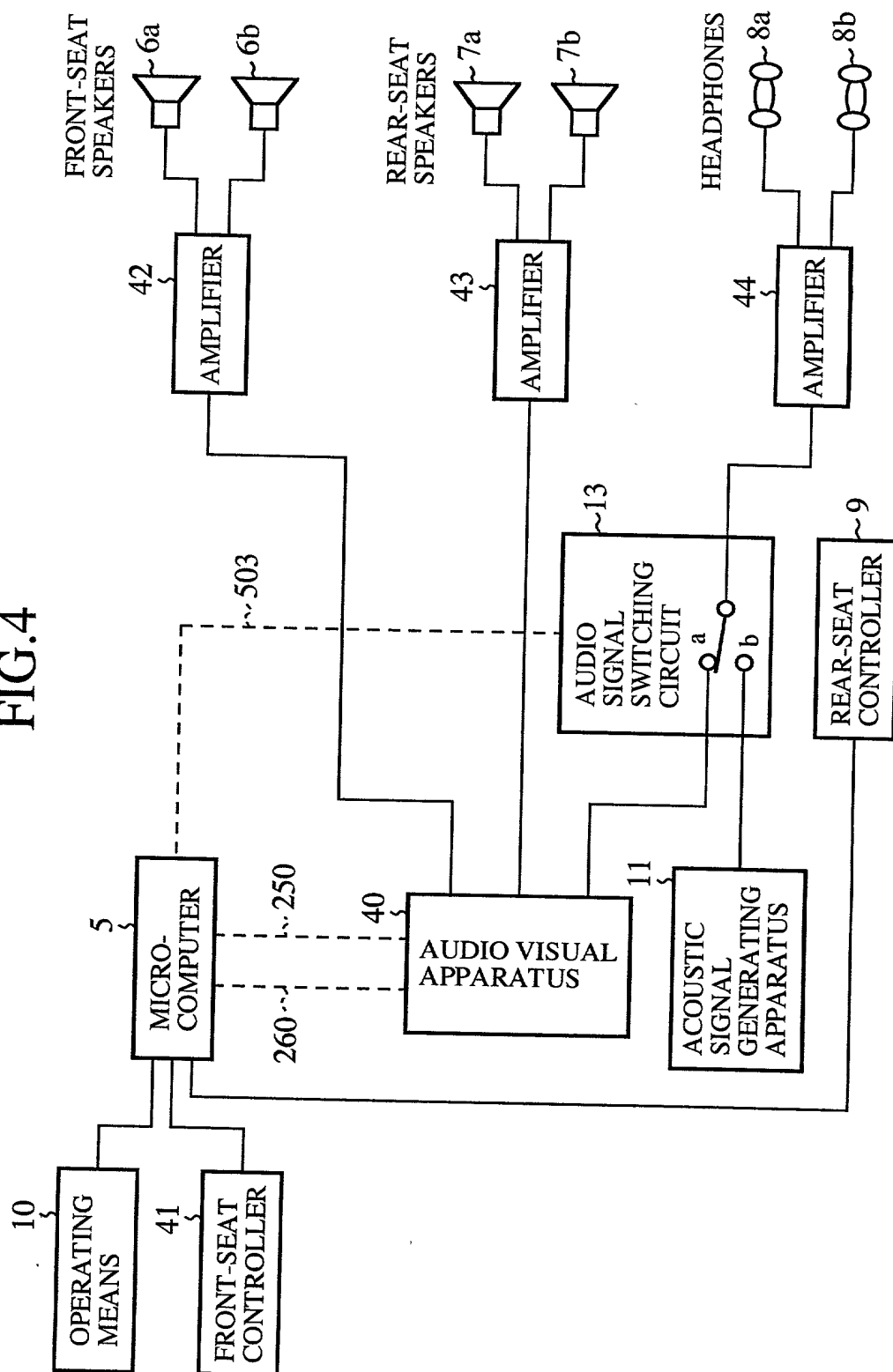
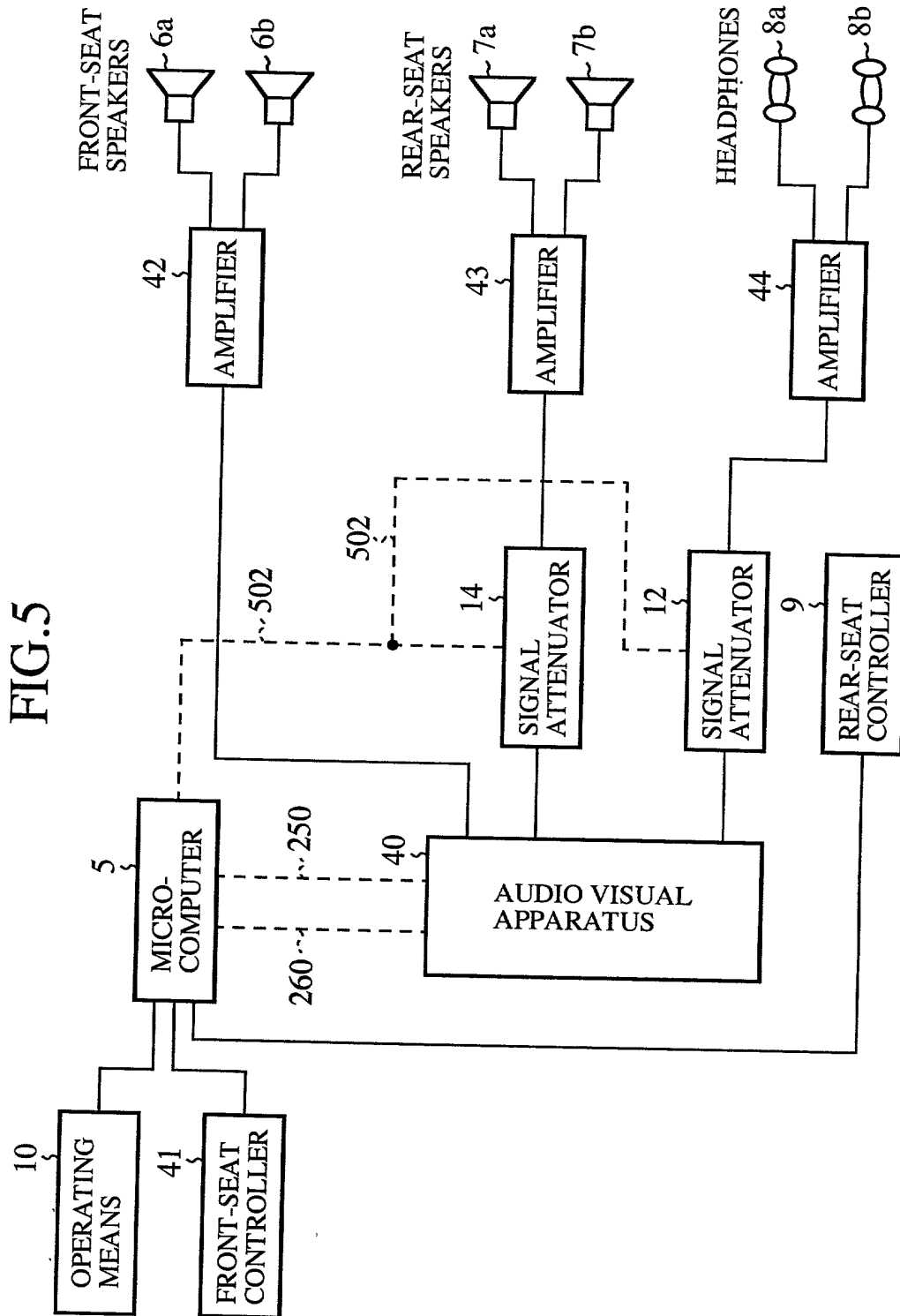


FIG. 4



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FIG. 6

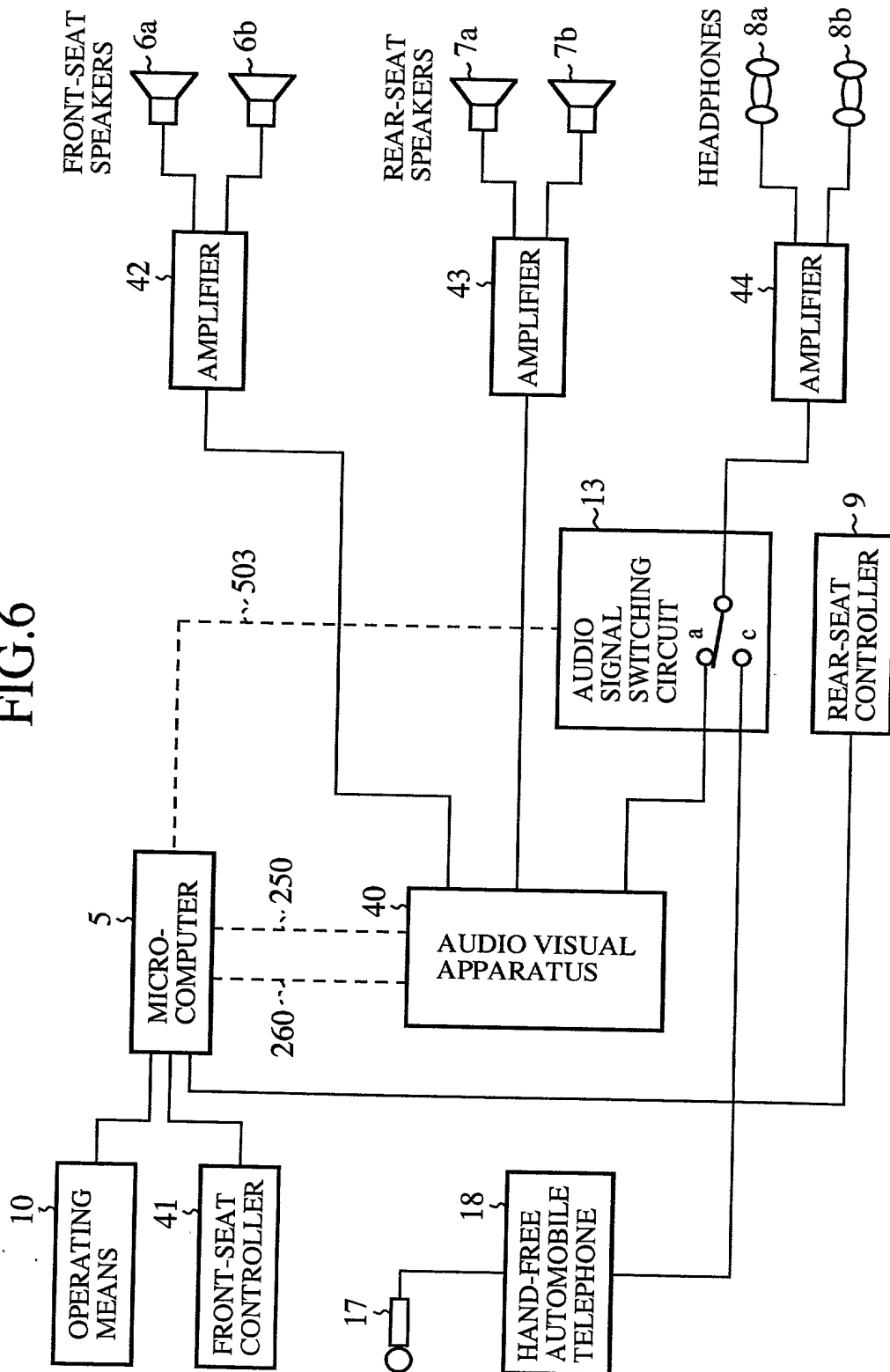
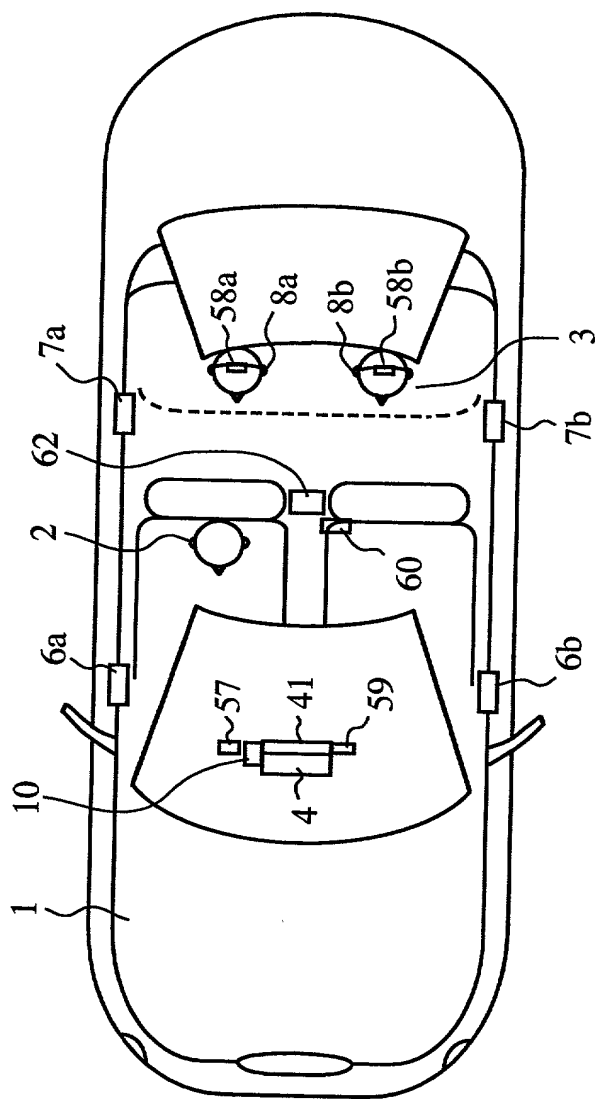
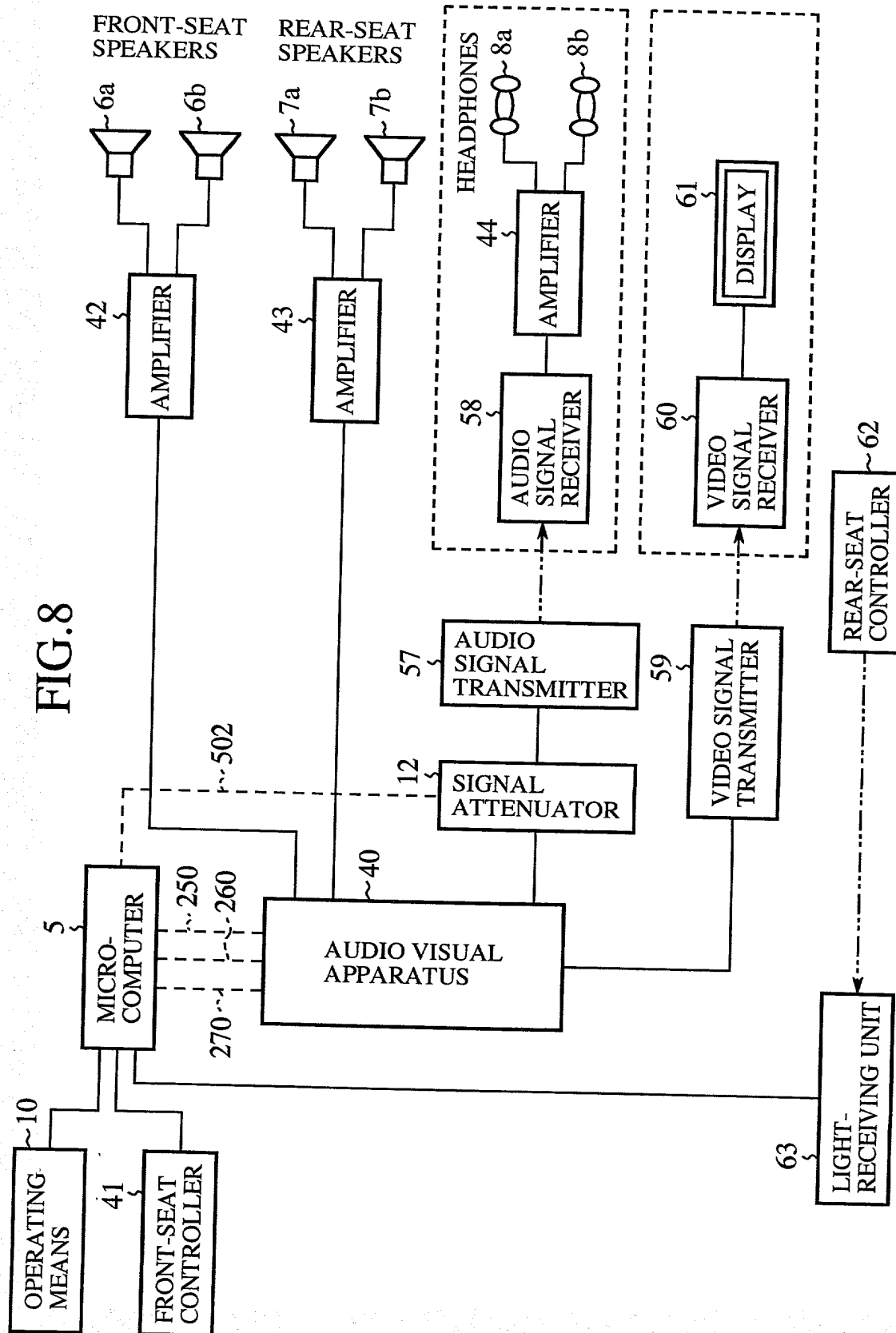


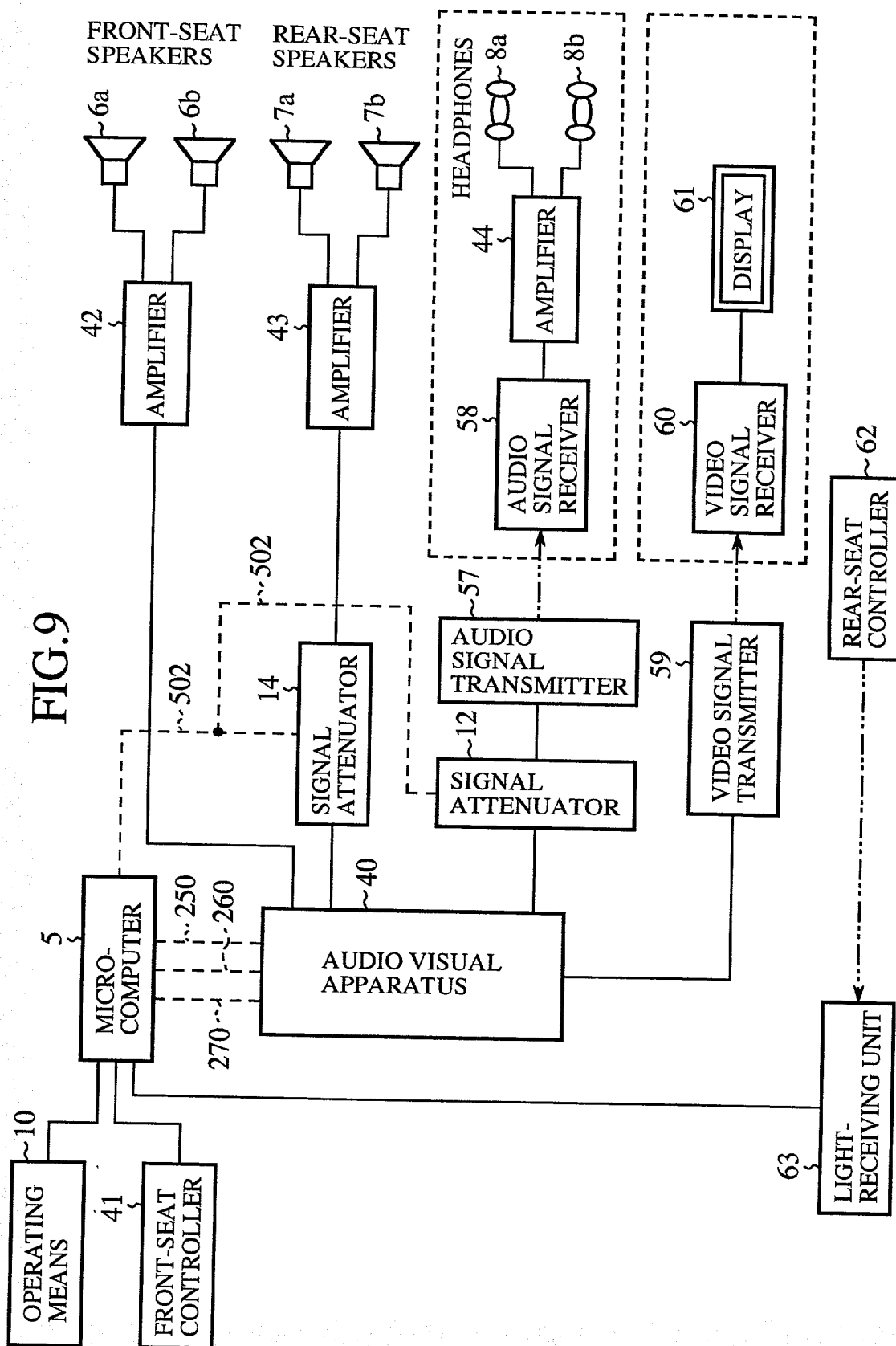
FIG.7



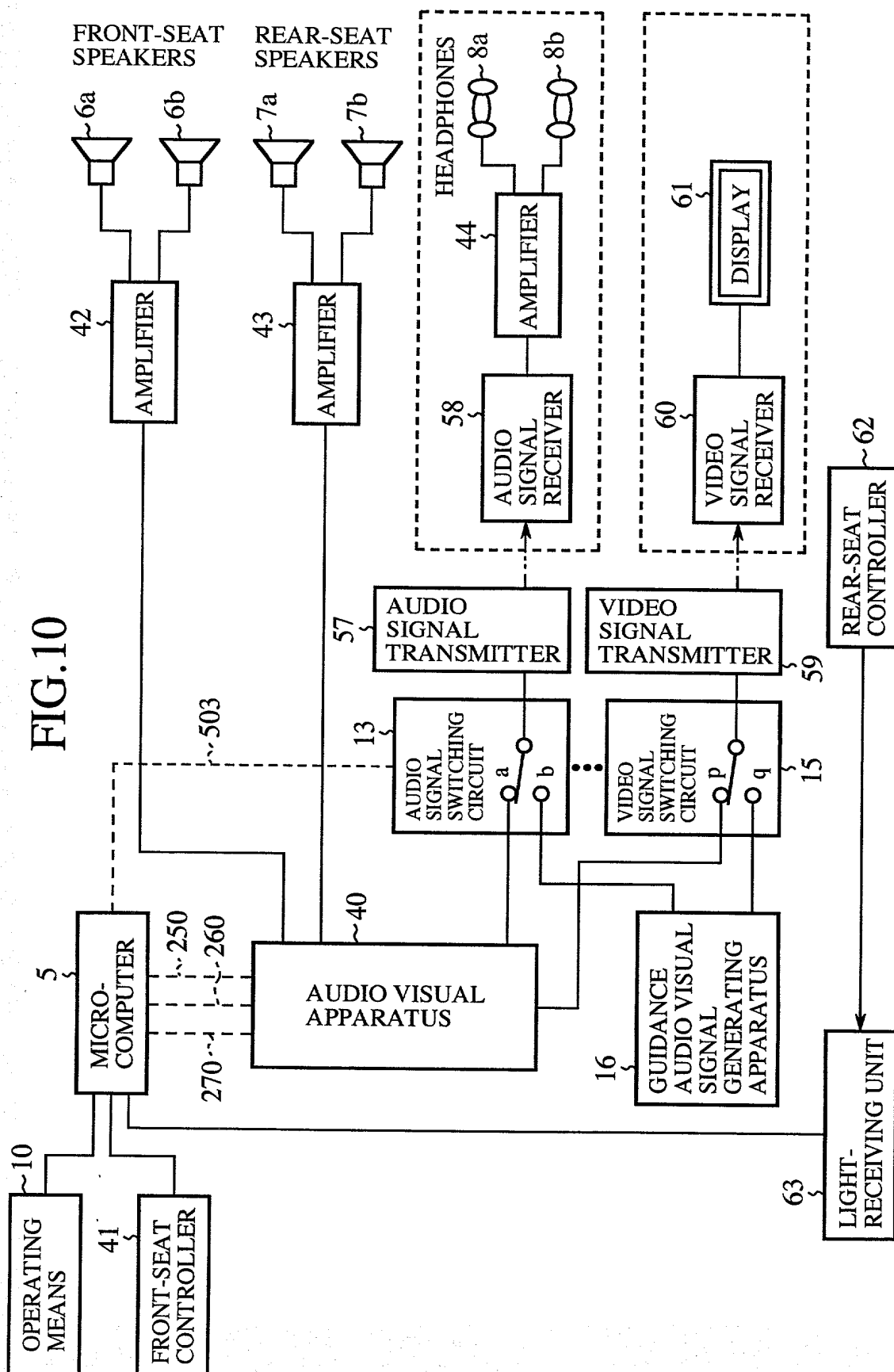
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FIG.11

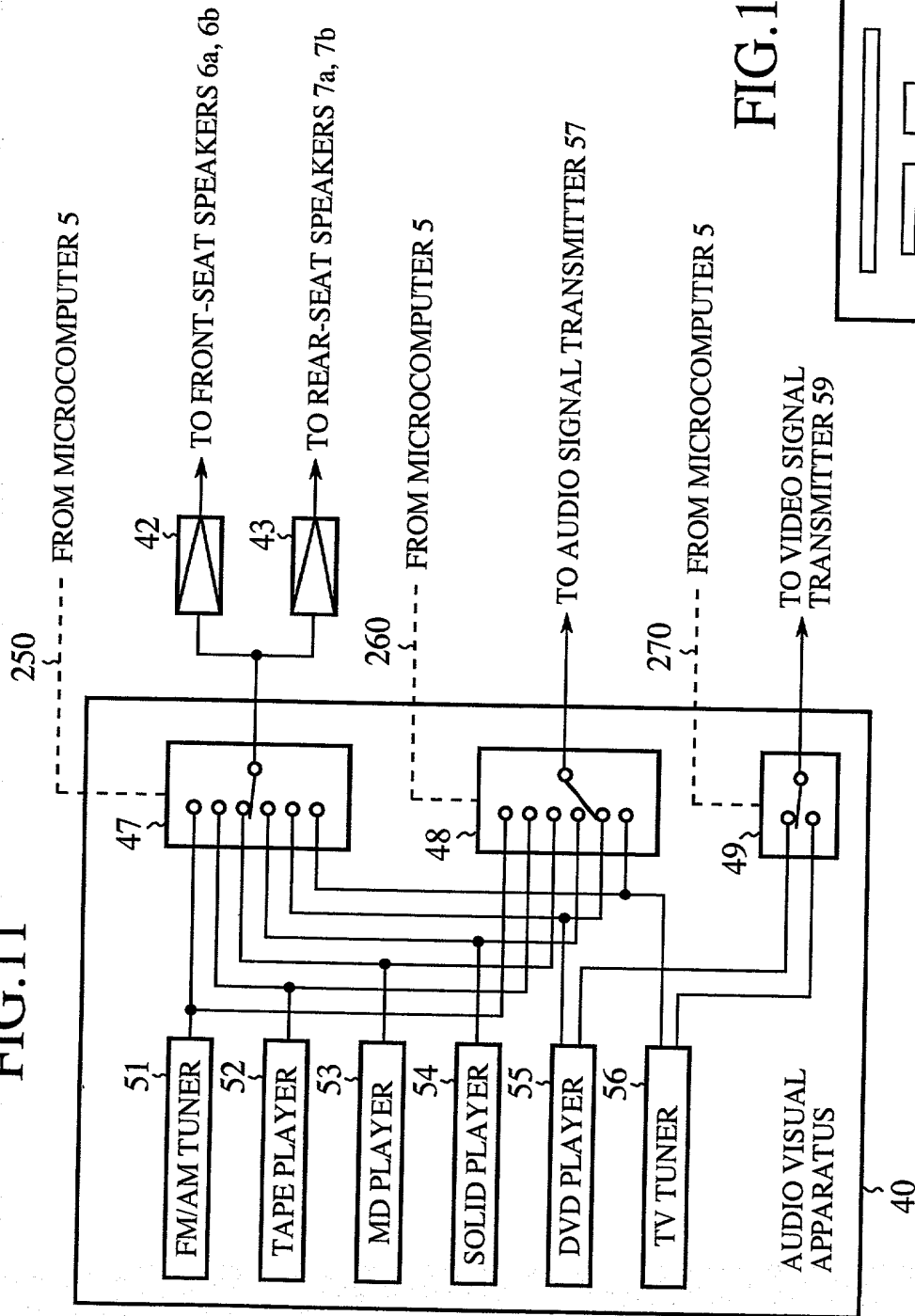
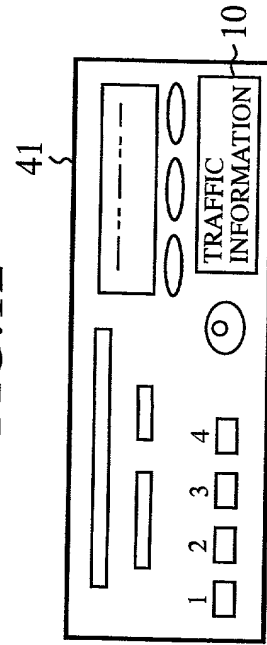


FIG.12



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FIG.13

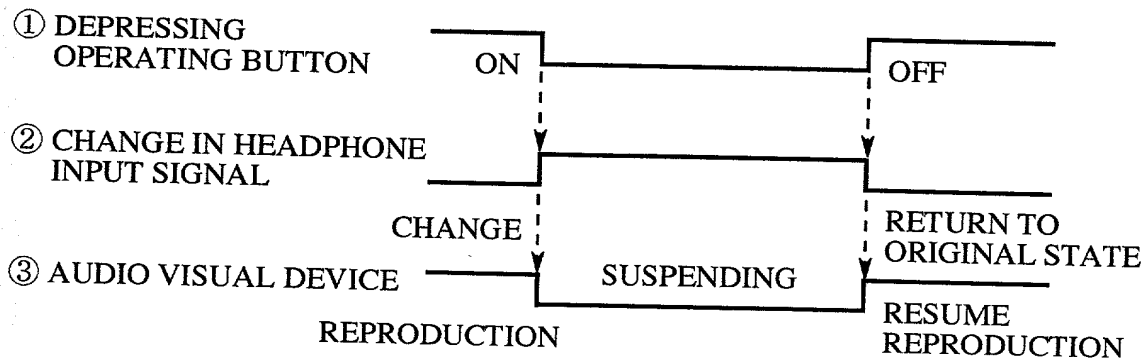


FIG.14

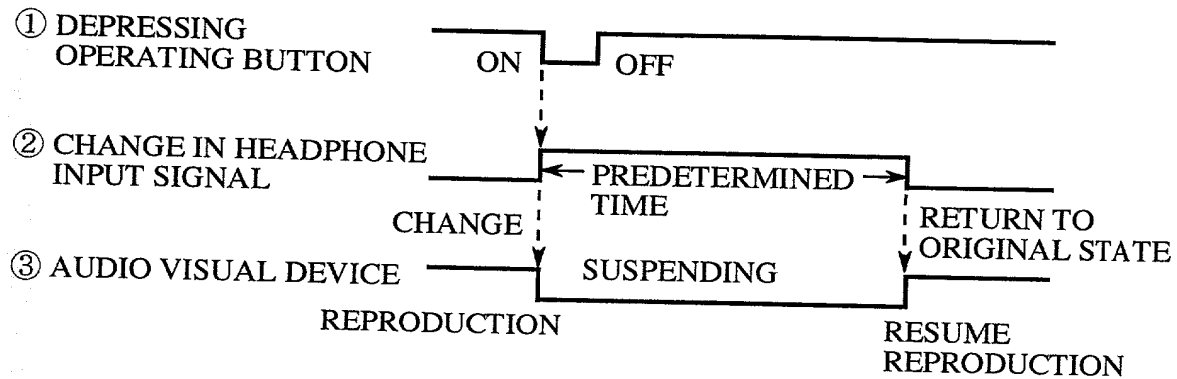


FIG. 15

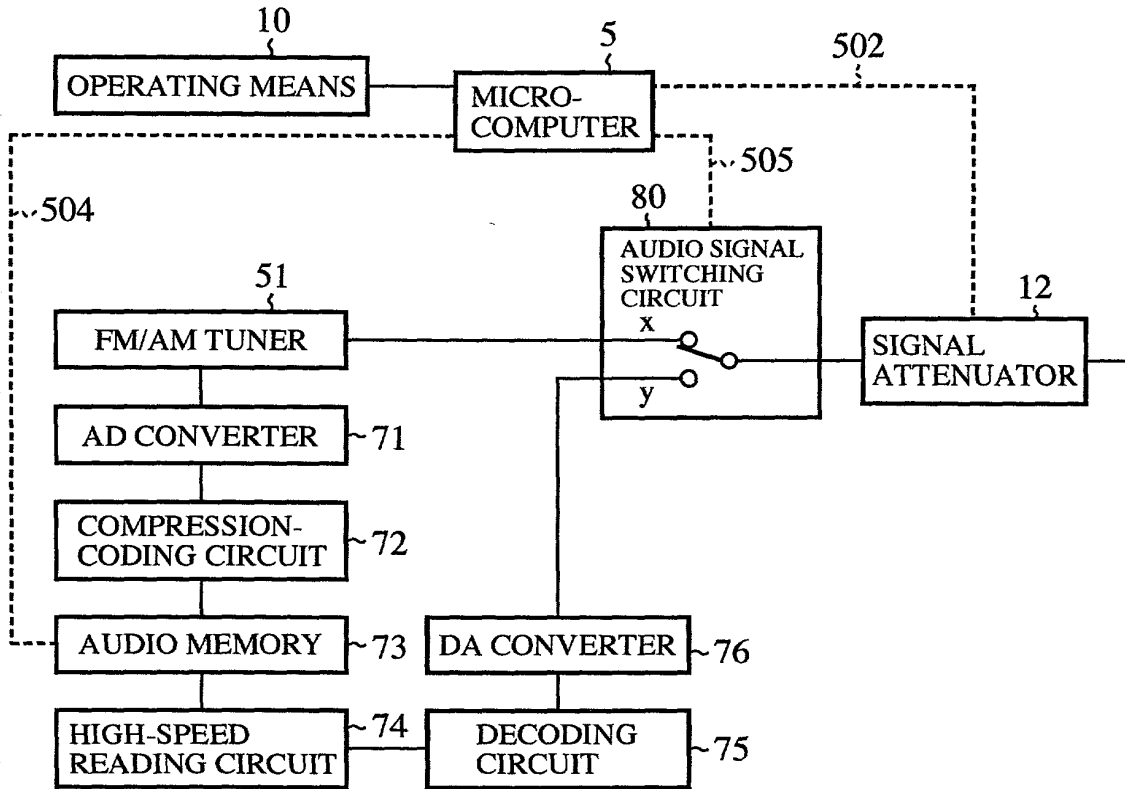


FIG. 16

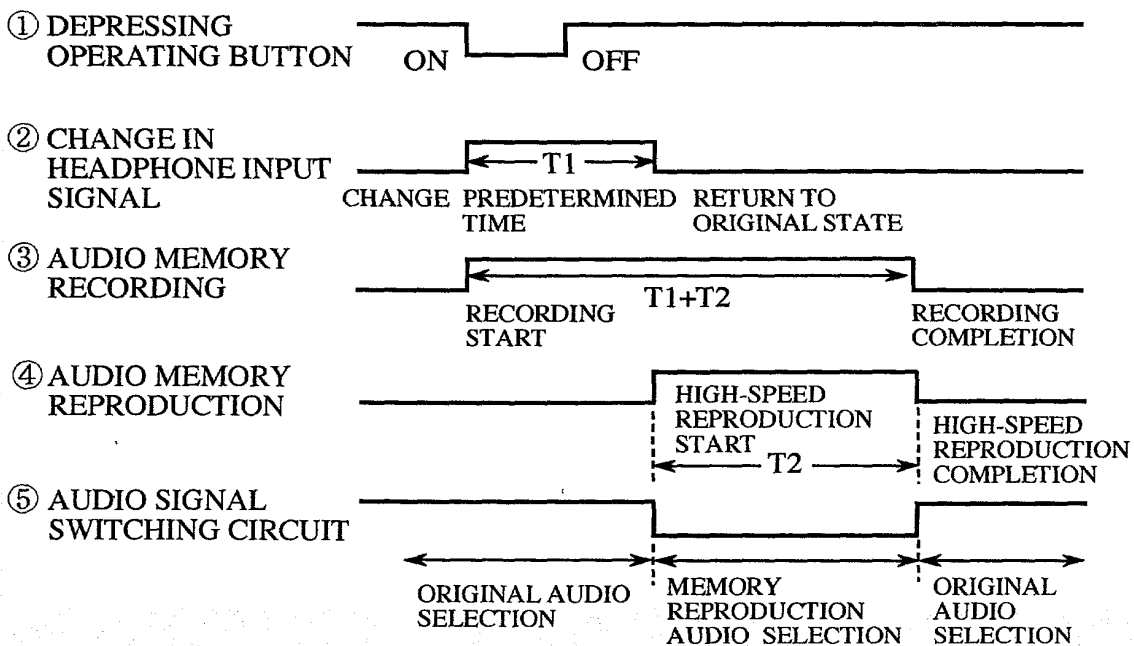




FIG.17

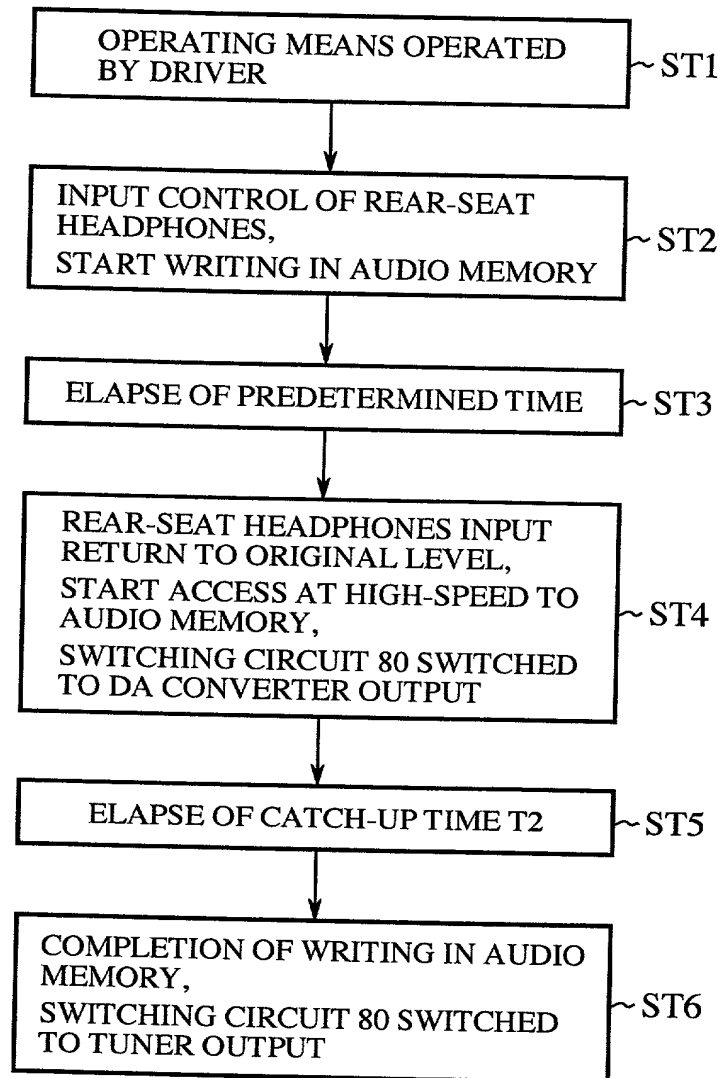
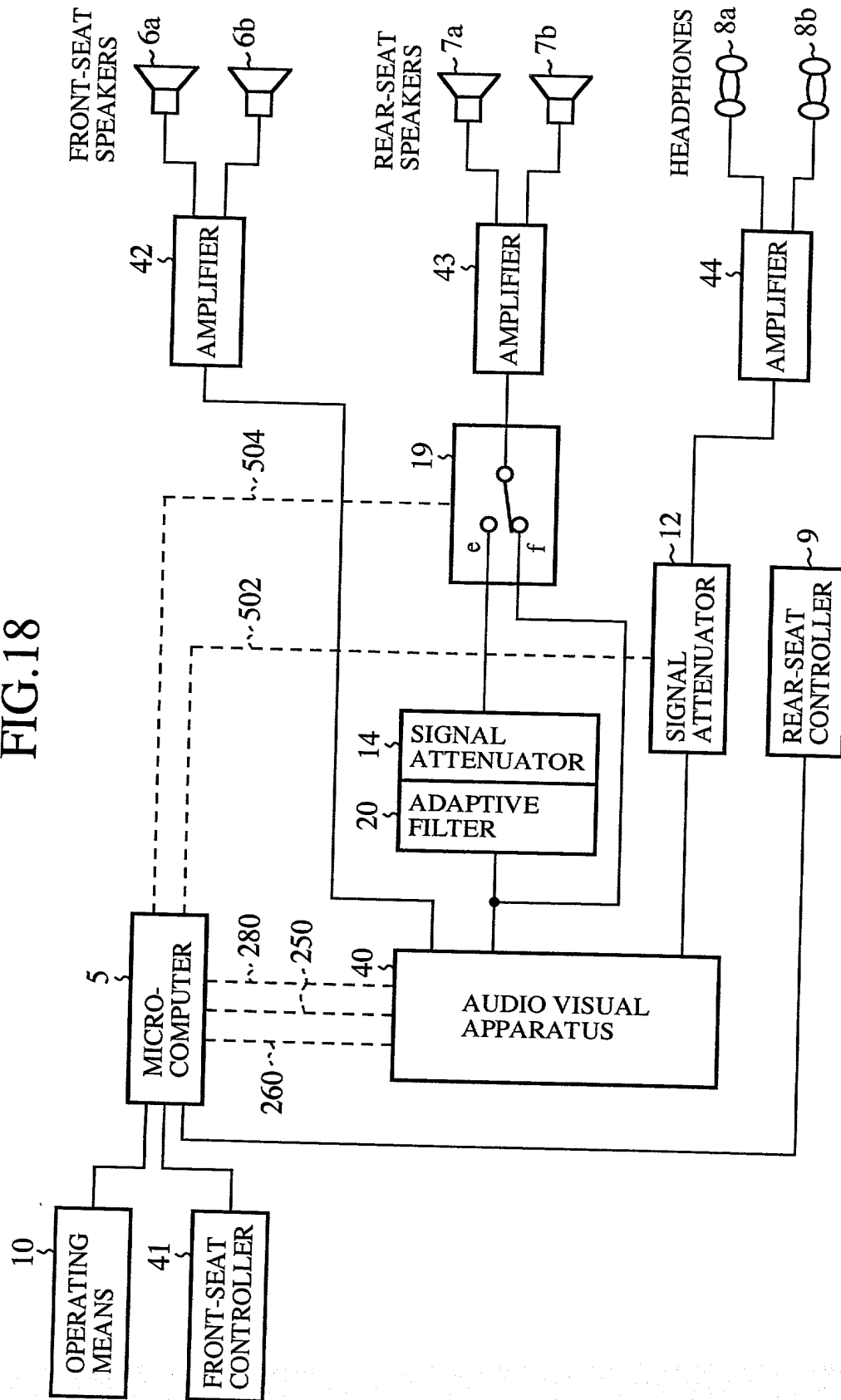


FIG.18



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FIG.19A

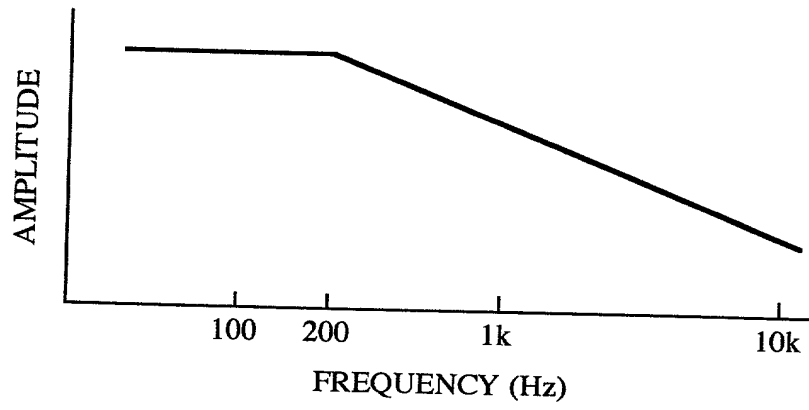
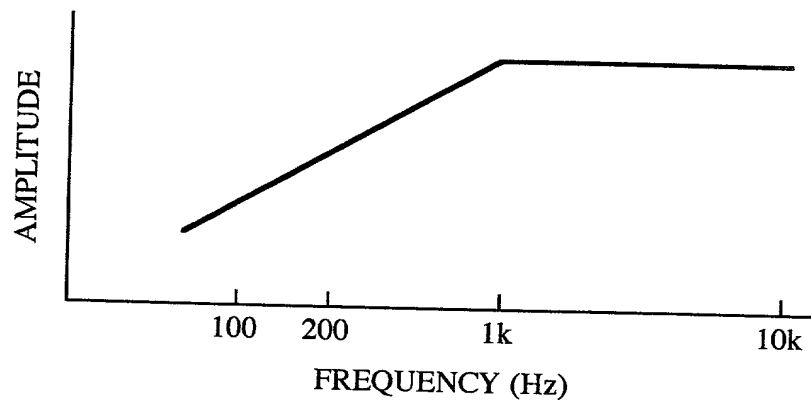


FIG.19B



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## Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

### 特許出願宣言書及び委任状

### Japanese Language Declaration

### 日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

"ONBOARD AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM"

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ \_\_月\_\_日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を\_\_\_\_とし、  
(該当する場合) \_\_\_\_\_に訂正されました。

☒ was filed on August 7, 2000  
as United States Application Number or  
PCT International Application Number  
PCT/JP00/05290 and was amended on  
\_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

## Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

### Prior Foreign Application(s) 外国での先行出願

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条(c)に基づき権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じることに基づき表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

### Priority Not Claimed 優先権主張なし

(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	□
(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	□

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)
(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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## Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

委任状: 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。(弁理士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

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